

World War II

THE BIG PICTURE

The aggression of tyrants in Europe and Asia exploded in another world war in 1939.

At first, the Axis armies of Germany, Japan, and Italy gained territory and inflicted great suffering. But after years of conflict, the Allies, led by Great Britain, the United States, and the Soviet Union, prevailed.



North Carolina Standards

Social Studies Objectives

5.03 Analyze the causes and course of World War II and evaluate it as the end of one era and the beginning of another.

Language Arts Objective

2.01.4 Demonstrate the ability to read, listen to and view a variety of increasingly complex print and non-print information texts appropriate to grade level and course by demonstrating comprehension of main idea and supporting details.



Invasion of Italy, by William C. Lawrence, 1943

TIME LINE

CHAPTER EVENTS

September 1939
German forces invade Poland, beginning World War II.

May 1940
Germany invades France.

December 7, 1941
Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, drawing the United States into World War II.

The Battle of Stalingrad
August 1942–February 1943

June 6, 1944
The Allies storm ashore at Normandy, France, on D-Day.

WORLD EVENTS

August 1940
Former Soviet revolutionary Leon Trotsky is killed in Mexico.

August 1942
Gandhi is arrested after calling for Britain to leave India.

1943
Penicillin comes into wide use as an antibiotic.



History's Impact video program

Watch the video to understand the impact of World War II.



July 1944
Soviet troops discover an abandoned Nazi death camp.

May 7, 1945
Germany formally surrenders.

August 15, 1945
Japan surrenders after atomic bombs are dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

1945

1944
The first large automatic computer is developed.

Reading like a Historian

This painting shows the Allied invasion of Italy in 1943—the first major Allied advance into Europe since the beginning of the war.

Analyzing Visuals The man who created this painting was an artist with the United States Coast Guard. What do you think he tried to show in this painting? Explain your answer.

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H26

GEOGRAPHY Starting Points

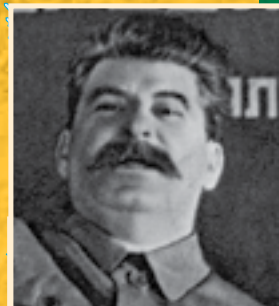


Interactive

EUROPE, 1930s



Adolf Hitler dreamed of a mighty German empire. He began to secretly build up the German military.



Communist dictator Joseph Stalin crushed his political opponents and dominated all aspects of Soviet life.



Fascist dictator Francisco Franco held power in Spain after the Spanish Civil War ended in the 1930s.



Fascist Benito Mussolini promised to restore Italy's greatness. He had a vision of a strong, powerful Italian military.

Starting Points As Europe struggled to recover and rebuild following World War I, many citizens looked for strong leaders. By the mid-1930s, some countries had fallen under the rule of dictators who promised power and glory for their nations. As the decade continued, their aggressive actions would lead the world closer to another devastating war.

- Analyze** What do you think happened in Europe as dictators tried to make their nations more powerful?
- Predict** How do you think other countries in Europe reacted to the rise of aggressive dictators?



Listen to History

Go online to listen to an explanation of the starting points for this chapter.

go.hrw.com

Keyword: SHL WW2

SECTION

1

Axis Aggression

BEFORE YOU READ

MAIN IDEA

In the late 1930s Germany and Japan used military force to build empires. Their aggressive actions led to the outbreak of World War II.

READING FOCUS

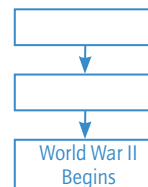
1. In what ways did Germany expand in the late 1930s?
2. What alliances did Axis nations make in the 1930s?
3. How did the war begin?
4. What were the causes and effects of Japan's attack on the United States?

KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

appeasement
Winston Churchill
Axis Powers
nonaggression pact
blitzkrieg
Allies
Battle of Britain
Hideki Tojo
isolationism

TAKING NOTES

Take notes on the events leading up to the start of World War II.



THE INSIDE STORY

How did a secret meeting outline Hitler's plan for world war?

A secret meeting took place deep in the heart of Nazi Germany on November 5, 1937. Present were German leader Adolf Hitler and a few of his top military and government advisers. One of those advisers, Colonel Friedrich Hossbach, took notes. These notes give a chilling description of Hitler's vision for the future of Germany.

Earlier in the day, Hitler had assured the Polish ambassador that Germany would respect Poland's territory on its eastern border. He also had stated that Germany had no intention of taking any Polish land. But at this secret meeting, Hitler said something very different.

Hitler began by swearing those present to secrecy. The subject that he was about to discuss was of vital importance. Germany, he said, faced a bleak future unless it could solve

the problem of its limited territory. Simply put, Germany in its present form was too small to be self-sufficient.

According to Hossbach's notes, Hitler believed there was just one possible answer. "Germany's problem," Hossbach wrote, "could only be solved by means of force." Germany needed to act quickly. Within a few years, the powerful German military, newly rebuilt after its post-World War I destruction, would become outdated while other nations grew stronger. Hitler argued that Germany must soon seize Eastern Europe and prepare for conflict with Great Britain and France. The time to strike was coming soon.

Hossbach compiled his report several days after hearing Hitler's words. They provide a clear picture of the threat growing in Europe in the late 1930s as Germany headed down the road to war. ■

READING SKILLS

Understanding Causes and Effects

Why did Hitler want Germany to expand?

Germany Expands

The Treaty of Versailles, which ended World War I, had seriously damaged the German economy. The terms of the treaty left Germans feeling humiliated. Adolf Hitler came to power in 1933 with a promise to restore German greatness. He wanted the nation to have *lebensraum* (LAY-buhn-z-rowm), or “living space,” in which the German people could grow and prosper. In other words, Hitler wanted Germany to have more territory. Germany’s neighbors were well aware of the threat of German expansion. But with memories of the devastation of World War I still fresh, no one was willing to fight over Hitler’s words.

Rebuilding the German Military Hitler soon realized that European leaders were no more willing to fight over his actions than over his words. After gaining control of the government when he became chancellor in 1933, Hitler secretly began to rebuild the German military, which had been greatly weakened after World War I. Before long, however, he was openly stating his plan to rearm Germany. Even though this action would violate the Treaty of Versailles, it went virtually unchallenged. In 1935, for example, Britain agreed to a new treaty allowing Germany to build submarines and other warships—again, in violation of the Treaty of Versailles. Hitler claimed that he was building German military strength to resist the spread of communism. Hitler’s claim was a diversion, though. He was actually planning to make war to build a mighty German empire.

Militarizing the Rhineland By 1936 Hitler was ready to take more direct action. In March he sent a small armed force into the Rhineland. This was German territory that bordered France. Hitler claimed to be reacting to a recent French-Soviet military agreement, which he said threatened Germany. The militarization of the Rhineland was another violation of the Treaty of Versailles, which required that German troops stay out of the region.

The French, along with the British, complained about Germany’s treaty violations. They took no direct action, however. German troops remained in the Rhineland, and Hitler grew bolder.

Annexing Austria Hitler knew that his opponents in Europe hoped to avoid war. Therefore, he began to plot more aggressive moves.

His next target was Austria, a German-speaking country that bordered Germany and was Hitler’s birthplace. He had long dreamed of uniting all the German-speaking people in Europe. In fact, Hitler’s Nazi party already had many supporters in Austria.

In early 1938 Hitler began to demand that Austrian officials accept annexation by Germany. Annexation is the formal joining of one country to another. The German term for this annexation with Austria was *Anschluss* (AHN-shloos). When it became clear that Hitler would conquer Austria by force and that many of the Austrian people supported unification with Germany, the Austrian government gave in. In March 1938 German forces marched into Austria without opposition. The independent country of Austria was no more.

A Growing Crisis After the takeover of Austria, Hitler was convinced that no one dared to stop him. Next he turned to Czechoslovakia. It had a large German-speaking population, many of whom lived in a region known as the Sudetenland (soo-DAY-tuhn-land). These people were eager to join Germany. Hitler began to threaten the Czech government. The Czechs, in turn, prepared for war. The Czechs believed that if fighting began they could count on the support of France.

Though the growing crisis alarmed the French and British, they were still more interested in avoiding conflict than in confronting Hitler. At a meeting in September 1938 in Munich, Germany, British prime minister Neville Chamberlain and French leader Edouard Daladier agreed not to block Hitler’s way. Czechoslovakia was told that if it fought Germany, it would do so alone.

Chamberlain returned to Great Britain believing that his policy of **appeasement**, or giving in to aggressive demands in order to maintain peace, had prevented an unnecessary war. However, others were convinced that this was wrong, and that Hitler would not stop after annexing the Sudetenland. In Britain’s Parliament, **Winston Churchill** had spoken out against Chamberlain’s plans. “Why not make a stand [against Hitler] while there is still a good company of united, very

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

violate break or ignore

AXIS ADVANCES, 1939–1941



- 1. Movement** Describe the major Axis advances in Europe.
- 2. Location** How much European territory did the Axis Powers control by 1941?

powerful countries?” Churchill asked. Few listened to his hypothesis. In Great Britain, Chamberlain was greeted as a hero. “I believe it is peace for our time,” he told an audience. “Go home and get a nice quiet sleep.”

READING CHECK Make Generalizations

How did the British and French respond to Germany's expansion and aggression?

Alliances and Civil War

While Hitler was threatening Europe in the 1930s, he was also busy building alliances with other totalitarian governments. These alliances put him in league with some of the world's other major aggressors.

The Axis Forms Aggressive and totalitarian regimes had also emerged in Italy and Japan in the years after World War I. These countries demonstrated a willingness to use military

force to achieve their goals. They also showed a disregard for the opinions of other nations.

Not surprisingly, perhaps, the similarities between Germany, Italy, and Japan led to a series of agreements that joined them together in a military alliance. These countries later came to be known as the **Axis Powers**.

One important agreement came in 1936, when Germany and Japan agreed to the Anti-Comintern Pact. This agreement united the two countries in an effort to prevent the spread of communism and to oppose the Soviet Union. The next year, Italy joined in the agreement. Later, in 1939, Italy and Germany signed a military alliance in which each side pledged to aid the other in the event of war.

The Spanish Civil War Italy and Germany also worked for an alliance with Spain. In 1936 fierce political conflict there had led to the outbreak of the Spanish Civil War. On one side were the Nationalists, a Fascist group.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

hypothesis
assumption or theory

Italy and Germany gave military support to the Nationalists, who were led by Spanish general Francisco Franco. On the other side were the Republicans, who were supported by the Soviet Union. After years of bloody fighting, Franco's Nationalists defeated the Republicans. Franco's victory added Spain to the list of European nations under the control of a Fascist dictator.

A Secret Deal with Stalin During the late 1930s Fascist Germany and Italy strongly opposed the Communist Soviet Union. This was in part because fascism and communism were very different. Fascism was based in extreme nationalism and loyalty to the state, while communism sought international change and a classless society. As a result, Soviet leader Joseph Stalin felt that the German military expansion threatened his nation.

In the summer of 1939 British and French officials, concerned about Hitler's aggressive actions, were discussing a possible alliance with the Soviets. But Stalin had lost confidence that the British and French would help protect his country from Germany's growing armies. As a result, Stalin was secretly negotiating a separate agreement with the Germans.

That agreement, the Nazi-Soviet Non-Aggression Pact, was revealed in August 1939. A **nonaggression pact** is an agreement in which each side promises not to attack the other. This pact was designed to allow further German aggression in Europe. A secret section of the pact also recognized each side's right to take territory in Eastern Europe, including dividing Poland into Soviet and German areas.

News of the pact shocked the British and French, who had hoped that the Soviets would support them in the event of a German attack. But it was now clear that Hitler was on the march. Only force would stop him.

READING CHECK **Identify Supporting Details** With whom did Hitler seek alliances in the late 1930s?

The War Begins

Just days after reaching his agreement with the Soviets, Hitler was ready for all-out war. On September 1, 1939, Germany launched an attack on Poland. This assault marked the start of World War II.

Lightning Attacks German forces used a new tactic in their assault on Poland. Known as **blitzkrieg**, German for "lightning war," it emphasized speed and close coordination between planes in the air and fast-moving forces on the ground. A blitzkrieg began with air attacks that damaged defenses and caused panic among civilians. Meanwhile, fast-moving columns of tanks and mobile artillery struck deep into the countryside. Behind them came foot soldiers, who swept through the area looking for any remaining areas of resistance.

The German attack on Poland had a devastating effect. The Polish air force was quickly destroyed. On land, Polish soldiers fought bravely, but they were nearly powerless to stop the German forces. In addition, the Polish countryside offered few natural barriers to slow the blitzkrieg.

One thing Poland did have was the support of Great Britain and France. Both had promised to help if Poland was attacked. On September 3, Britain and France declared war on Germany. They became known as the **Allies**. Neither country, however, gave any significant help to Poland. The collapse of the Polish defenses was so fast that little could be done to stop Poland's defeat. In just weeks, Poland was in German hands.

Even before the conquest of Poland was complete, German troops began to move into position on Germany's western border. Hitler wanted to destroy his major enemies in Europe, and he was eager to begin an assault on France. Throughout the winter of 1939–1940, German leaders made their plans for an invasion.

The Attack on France The German assault began in the spring of 1940. First came a quick, well-planned invasion of lightly defended Denmark and Norway. Capturing these countries helped improve Germany's access to the Atlantic Ocean. Then, on May 10, the long-expected attack on France began.

The German assault slammed first into the Netherlands and Belgium, countries that lay between Germany and France. Allied forces rushed to meet the invasion, but they were no match for the German attack.

At the same time, another German force was attacking farther to the south, in the Ardennes (ahr-DEN); a dense forest region along the border between France and Belgium.

The London Blitz

The London Blitz began in September 1940, when Germany bombed London, the British capital. The German goal was to terrorize the British people so that they would lose the will to fight. For 57 straight nights, German bombs pounded London. They destroyed huge areas of the city and killed tens of thousands of people. Despite the destruction, the British people refused to surrender.

Some 200 German bombers attacked London each night. British fighters shot them down faster than German factories could replace them.

Searchlights targeted German aircraft for British anti-aircraft guns.

Fires raged throughout London, and many of the city's buildings lay in ruins.

Many Londoners found shelter from German bombs in the city's subway system—the Underground.

THE LONDON BLITZ, 1940–1941



Skills Focus

INTERPRETING VISUALS

Draw Conclusions If British fighters could shoot down German planes faster than Germany could produce them, what do you think would be the eventual result of the Blitz?

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COULD YOU HAVE SURVIVED?

Go online for a closer look at survival and this event.

Keyword: SHL WW2

FACES OF HISTORY

Winston CHURCHILL 1874–1965



One of the great leaders of World War II was Winston Churchill. The prime minister of Great Britain, Churchill used his gift for words to rally

the British people to victory during the early years of the war, when all hope seemed lost.

Churchill had been active in British politics since 1900, but it was the growing danger posed by Germany in the 1930s that brought out his finest qualities as a leader and speaker. He became prime minister after war broke out. In that role, he led the British people throughout the war, urging them to remain strong in their opposition to Nazi Germany. His refusal to consider surrendering helped preserve Britain as a base from which the Allies could eventually attack Hitler's armies.

Find the Main Idea What qualities of leadership did Churchill display?

French leaders believed that the thick forest was impossible for an army to pass through and had left it virtually undefended. Consequently, when German tanks emerged from the Ardennes, they quickly overwhelmed the light resistance they met there.

From the Ardennes the German tanks rumbled northwest toward the French coast. The Germans trapped hundreds of thousands of Allied troops, who retreated to the coastal city of Dunkirk. There, in a heroic rescue, Allied military and civilian ships saved over 300,000 soldiers and brought them to Great Britain.

Although disaster had been avoided at Dunkirk, France was doomed. The remaining Allied forces were unable to slow the Germans' steady march toward Paris. On June 22, 1940, France surrendered to Germany.

Germany occupied much of France, but placed part of the country under the control of French officials who cooperated with Hitler. This area was known as Vichy (VEE-shee) France. Some French leaders, including Charles de Gaulle, escaped to Britain. There they organized resistance to German and Vichy control of France. Within France, resistance fighters fought to liberate their country.

The Battle for Britain Despite the French resistance effort, Great Britain now stood alone against what appeared to be an unstoppable German war machine. But conquering Britain would prove to be far more difficult for Hitler

than taking the rest of Europe had been. Britain was now led by Winston Churchill, who had replaced Neville Chamberlain as prime minister in May 1940. Churchill's fighting spirit inspired confidence among the British people.

HISTORY'S VOICES

“We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills. We shall never surrender.”

—Winston Churchill, June 4, 1940

Between August and October of 1940 Germany sent thousands of aircraft over the English Channel to attack British targets in what became known as the **Battle of Britain**. Hitler's plan was to destroy the British Royal Air Force and thus make it possible to invade Britain. For the first time in the war, the Germans failed. The British were aided by a new technology called radar. Radar uses radio signals to locate and create an image of distant objects. In the Battle of Britain, radar allowed the British to detect incoming German air attacks before the German planes were visible. This made British air defenses much more effective.

As the battle continued into the fall of 1940, German planes began to bomb British ports and cities, including London. This assault became known as the London Blitz. Hitler's goal in attacking civilians was to terrorize the British public and break their will to fight. German bombs killed thousands of civilians and destroyed large areas of London and other major cities, but the British refused to give in.

Bombing continued into early 1941, but German losses increased. Finally, Hitler was forced to call off his plans to invade Britain.

The Invasion of the Soviet Union The German failure in Great Britain may have frustrated Hitler, but it did not stop him. He quickly shifted his attention back to the east. In June 1941 Hitler broke his nonaggression pact with Stalin and sent some 3 million German troops pouring into the Soviet Union. At first the German blitzkrieg was highly effective against the Soviets. Just as they had in Poland and France, German tanks and soldiers raced across the Soviet countryside. The Soviet Red Army had millions of soldiers, but its poorly trained and equipped troops were no match for the overwhelming German forces.

Despite the steep losses suffered by the Soviet army, the Soviet Union did not collapse. By autumn the Germans had pushed deep into Soviet territory, but they had not managed to reach their major goals of Leningrad and Moscow, the Soviet capital. Further, they had not prepared for the extremely harsh temperatures of the Soviet winter. German troops lacked warm clothing, and their vehicles and equipment worked poorly in the frigid conditions. As winter set in, their progress slowed, then stopped.

At the same time, the Soviets were beginning to recover from the huge number of casualties they had suffered in the early fighting. The vast population of the Soviet Union allowed the Soviet armies to rebuild quickly. The Soviets had survived the mighty German onslaught, and for the first time they were beginning to fight back.

READING CHECK **Sequence** With what events did the war begin?

Japan Attacks

While war spread across Europe, another threat to peace was taking shape halfway around the world. Recall that Japan's military expansion and aggression in Asia during the 1930s had concerned many observers, including American leaders. Most Americans, however, wanted to stay out of the growing conflict overseas.

In 1941 Japan moved its forces into French Indochina, a French colony in Southeast Asia. This region was rich in oil, rubber, and other natural resources that Japan would need to supply its military. In response, nervous American leaders banned the sale of oil to Japan, a move that was designed to slow the Japanese war machine. This was a serious threat to Japan's future plans.

The Japanese government continued to hold peace talks with the United States. Meanwhile, Japan secretly planned for war.

Pearl Harbor For months, Japanese military leaders under General **Hideki Tojo** had been developing plans for a surprise attack on the American naval base at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. This base was home to the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet. As the sun rose on Sunday morning, December 7, 1941, the Japanese attack began.

PRIMARY SOURCES

The Attack on Pearl Harbor

The day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked Congress to declare war on Japan.

"Yesterday, December 7th, 1941—a date which will live in infamy—the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan . . .

"As commander in chief of the Army and Navy, I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense. But always will our whole nation remember the character of the onslaught against us.

"No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people in their righteous might will win through to absolute victory . . .

"Hostilities exist . . . our people, our territory, and our interests are in grave danger.

"With confidence in our armed forces, with the unbounding determination of our people, we will gain the inevitable triumph—so help us God."

Skills FOCUS

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

- 1. Analyze Primary Sources** How does President Roosevelt describe Japan's actions?
- 2. Infer** In what way do you think the American public would have responded to Roosevelt's speech?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H25

▼ American soldiers abandon the burning USS *California* during the attack on Pearl Harbor.



For nearly two weeks Japanese aircraft carriers had been approaching Pearl Harbor from the north, undetected by the American military. When the attack started, hundreds of Japanese fighters and bombers launched from the carriers and sped over Pearl Harbor, dropping bombs and torpedos on the American base below. The raid was a complete surprise.

American Eddie Jones was onboard the USS *California* in Pearl Harbor when the attack began.

HISTORY'S VOICES

“You couldn’t believe it was happening. You could see it in front of your eyes, but you couldn’t believe it. Here it was, a beautiful morning—a beautiful Sunday morning—and you see everything blowing up and ships sinking and men in the water. And you think, we’re at peace with the world. This can’t be happening.”

—Seaman Second Class Eddie Jones, in *War Stories: Remembering World War II*

Although American military planners had long believed that an attack on Pearl Harbor was a possibility, the base was lightly defended. Most American planes never had the chance to leave the ground.

The attack lasted less than two hours, but the destruction was enormous. Some 2,400

Americans were dead. Nearly 200 aircraft were destroyed, and all eight battleships in the harbor were sunk or damaged. Perhaps the only good news for the Americans was that the three aircraft carriers normally stationed at Pearl Harbor were out to sea during the attack and were unharmed.

The American Response The attack on Pearl Harbor had a profound effect on the American public. Until then, many Americans had believed that the United States should stay out of Europe’s war and protect its own interests. This desire to avoid involvement in the affairs of other nations is known as **isolationism**. Isolationism was common in the United States after World War I, when many Americans questioned what the costly Allied victory in that war had actually accomplished. But as news of the attack on Pearl Harbor spread, most isolationism quickly disappeared. On December 8 the U.S. Congress declared war on Japan. Three days later, Germany and Italy declared war on the United States. With these actions, the United States joined the Allies in the global fight against the Axis Powers.

READING CHECK

Find the Main Idea Why did Japan attack the United States?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT

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Online Quiz

Keyword: SHL WW2 HP

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

1. **a. Identify** What are some examples of Hitler’s growing military aggression in the late 1930s?
- b. Compare and Contrast** Compare and contrast Germany’s actions in the Rhineland, Austria, and Czechoslovakia.
- c. Evaluate** How would you describe Neville Chamberlain’s policy toward Hitler in the late 1930s?
2. **a. Recall** Who were the Axis Powers?
- b. Make Inferences** Why do you think Hitler sought allies in the late 1930s?
- c. Evaluate** What do you think about Stalin’s decision to make a deal with Hitler rather than trust the British and French to help stop the Germans? Explain.
3. **a. Recall** What event marked the start of World War II?
- b. Compare and Contrast** Describe Germany’s successes and failures in France, Great Britain, and the Soviet Union.
4. **a. Recall** What events led up to the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor?

- b. Identify Cause and Effect** What was the significance of the attack on Pearl Harbor in terms of American public opinion?

Critical Thinking

5. **Sequence** Use your notes and a graphic organizer like this one to explain how events of the 1930s led to the outbreak of World War II. How did the world react to each event.



FOCUS ON SPEAKING

6. **Persuasion** Write a brief conversation between Neville Chamberlain and Winston Churchill. In your conversation, have the speakers discuss what Great Britain should do about Germany’s increasingly aggressive actions.

The Allied Response

BEFORE YOU READ

MAIN IDEA

The early years of World War II went poorly for the Allies. But after the United States joined the war, the Allies soon recovered and began making gains against the Axis.

READING FOCUS

1. In what ways were Americans involved in the early years of the war?
2. How did the war in North Africa and Italy progress?
3. What was the turning point in the Soviet Union?
4. What was the turning point in the Pacific?

KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

Erwin Rommel
Battle of El Alamein
Dwight D. Eisenhower
Siege of Leningrad
Battle of Stalingrad
Douglas MacArthur
Bataan Death March
Battle of Midway
Battle of Guadalcanal
kamikazes

TAKING NOTES

List the main instances of Allied success in the war in 1942 and 1943.



THE INSIDE STORY

Could old newspapers help win a war?

Defeating the Axis armies required a huge effort from the Allies. In the Allied nations, millions of people volunteered to fight. Others found different ways to help.

The war effort required enormous amounts of raw materials to make the supplies needed to win the war, from airplanes to ammunition to food. In Great Britain and the United States, civilians took part in efforts to save these precious resources for the soldiers fighting overseas.

Rationing and recycling were two ways the average British or American civilian helped the war effort. The federal government rationed, or limited, many products during the war, including certain foods, clothing, and gasoline. Rationing meant sacrifices for all. Civilians received a

certain number of ration stamps, which could be used to buy rationed products such as meats, butter, and canned vegetables. Many people planted "victory gardens" to grow extra food.

Recycling was another way people on the home front contributed to the war effort. They collected metal, rubber, newspapers, even kitchen fat, all of which could be used in the war effort. For example, metal cans could be turned into ammunition or guns, while kitchen fat was used to make glycerin, an ingredient in explosives and medicines.

These scrap drives provided scarce materials for the war effort and they also brought civilians together to support the Allied struggle. They helped people at home stay strong during the uncertain days of the bloodiest war the world had ever seen. ■

RECYCLING FOR VICTORY

► American children collect old paper for the Allied war effort.



Early American Involvement

The Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor ended most American resistance to entering the war. But even before the United States declared war on Japan, the country had been helping the Allies by shipping supplies across the Atlantic Ocean.

The Battle of the Atlantic Control of the Atlantic Ocean was a critical factor in World War II. Great Britain and the Soviet Union depended heavily on supplies shipped by sea to their ports. If Germany gained control of the seas and cut off Allied access to food and equipment, the war would soon be lost.

Germany's navy was powerful, but it did not have enough ships to match the battleships of Great Britain. As a result, the Germans came to rely on the same weapon they had used in World War I—the U-boat, or submarine. U-boats inflicted enormous damage on the Allies, sinking hundreds of merchant supply ships in the early years of the war.

Before entering the war, the United States offered military aid to Great Britain in the form of ships and military escorts for convoys. Convoys were groups of many ships that offered safety in numbers. This aid led to shooting between American and German vessels. In October 1941 a U-boat sank the American escort ship *USS Reuben James*, killing most of its crew. It was the first U.S. Navy ship sunk by Germany during the war.

The American Home Front Less than two months after the *Reuben James* went down, Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. After the United States entered the war, the nation had to mobilize, or bring its military forces into readiness. This was an enormous task. To defeat the powerful Axis armies, the United States would need soldiers, sailors, and pilots, as well as a great deal of military equipment and supplies.

Millions of American men volunteered to fight for their country, and still more were drafted, or required to serve. While women were not permitted to take part in combat, they filled other roles in the military, working as pilots, clerks, and in other positions. The nation also responded quickly to the need for war supplies. For example, many factories that made consumer goods were converted to produce

weapons and supplies. The enormous demand for workers gave new employment opportunities to many women and African Americans.

Americans at home found other ways to help their country. They made do with less food, fuel, and other items, all of which were needed by the armed forces. They participated in scrap drives to collect materials such as iron and rubber, which could be recycled for military purposes.

But wartime patriotism had negative effects too. Some government officials worried that Americans of German, Italian, and Japanese descent would help the enemy. German Americans and Italian Americans faced certain restrictions during the war, but Japanese Americans were treated most harshly.

More than 100,000 Japanese Americans on the West Coast were forced to leave their homes and businesses and travel to internment camps. Most were American citizens, but the government was concerned only with their racial background. Life in the camps was hard. Many were located in desert areas with a harsh climate and were surrounded by guards and barbed wire fences. Families lived in small facilities, and the quality of education and health care was poor. It was not until later in the war that they were released.

Winning the Atlantic After the United States was officially at war, Germany sent its U-boats into American waters. They hoped to destroy American merchant ships. Indeed, hundreds of American ships went down.

By 1943, however, the Allies had made a number of adjustments in the war for the Atlantic. For one thing, Allied factories finally began producing ships and planes in large numbers. This meant better equipped convoys, which had more firepower to find and destroy U-boats. The Allies had also broken a key German code system used to transmit information about German plans. This helped the Allies learn the locations of German U-boats.

Thanks to these improvements, losses to U-boats dropped sharply. The vital supply line to Great Britain and the Soviet Union was kept open, and the Atlantic belonged to the Allies.

READING CHECK

Find the Main Idea How were Americans on the home front involved in the war?



The Manzanar internment camp in California is now a national historic site operated by the National Park Service.

WORLD WAR II IN EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA, 1941–1943



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

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Interactive Map
Keyword: SHL WW2

- 1. Movement** Describe the major Allied advances in North Africa and Italy.
- 2. Location** What areas of Europe and North Africa did the Allies control in 1942?

War in North Africa and Italy

While the fighting for the Atlantic was still raging, Italian and British forces began a battle for the control of North Africa. This territory was vital for the Allies. If the British could control North Africa, they would be able to protect the Suez Canal, the shipping route that linked the Mediterranean Sea with the oil fields of the Middle East. Keeping this oil supply flowing was essential to the British war effort.

In the fall of 1940, Italian forces based in Libya attacked British-controlled Egypt. This attack was a failure. British forces not only eliminated the Italian threat to Egypt, they soon drove into Libya and threatened to gain control of all of North Africa. Hitler was forced to send German forces to support the Italians.

Back-and-Forth Fighting The new German and Italian force in Africa—called the Afrika Korps—was led by German general **Erwin Rommel**. He quickly earned his nickname, the Desert Fox, by skillfully pushing the British out of Libya and back into Egypt.

The Afrika Korps, however, had trouble supplying its forces, and this limited its effectiveness. Throughout 1941 and into 1942, the British and the Afrika Korps traded blows.

A key battle took place in October 1942, at El Alamein (el a-luh-MAYN) in Egypt. British troops under General Bernard Montgomery took advantage of Rommel's supply problems.

Using information gained from secret German codes, the British won a smashing victory. As a result of the **Battle of El Alamein**, Axis power in North Africa was severely weakened.

The Americans Join the Battle As the British and the Afrika Korps fought in Libya and Egypt, Allied leaders were planning to bring American troops to the European battlefield. The Soviets wanted the Allies to invade Europe, creating a second front that would force Hitler to pull troops away from Soviet territory. British and American leaders insisted that planning for such a huge action would take time. They decided to invade the western part of North Africa first, in the French colonies of Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia.

In November 1942 a combined American and British force landed in North Africa. It was led by American general **Dwight D. Eisenhower**. The Allies faced little resistance after landing, and French forces soon joined them.

The landing put Rommel in a difficult spot, with strong Allied forces both to the east and west. His supply problems also continued to worsen. After several battles, during which the Americans first experienced combat in the war, the Germans and Italians were finally trapped. In May 1943, they surrendered. Nearly 250,000 Axis soldiers were taken prisoner. All of North Africa was now in Allied hands.

Fighting in Italy The next goal for the Allies was Italy itself. In July 1943 Allied soldiers moved north from Africa and landed on the

Italian island of Sicily. Italian resistance was weakening, and by the end of the month the Italian government had forced dictator Benito Mussolini from power. The Allies captured the island a few weeks later and made plans to invade mainland Italy.

But Hitler was not going to allow the Allies to simply march through Italy into the center of Europe. After the Allies moved into southern Italy in September 1943, the invasion was slowed by German resistance as troops moved north. Bloody fighting there would continue for months to come.

READING CHECK Summarize What did Allied troops accomplish in the war in North Africa and Italy?

A Turning Point in the Soviet Union

The 1941 German invasion of the Soviet Union had sputtered to a halt when the Soviet winter set in. German equipment failed in the brutally cold conditions, and Hitler's poorly equipped troops suffered greatly.

Their suffering, however, was mild compared to that of the citizens of Leningrad. After German troops failed to capture the city in 1941, Hitler ordered a siege, or a military blockade designed to force the city to surrender. "In this war for existence," he said, "we have no interest in keeping even part of this great city's population." In the winter of 1941–1942, Soviet civilians starved to death at a rate of 3,000–4,000 a day. Eventually, as many as 1 million civilians would perish in the **Siege of Leningrad**.

The Battle of Stalingrad As the weather warmed in the spring of 1942, Hitler ordered renewed assaults on the Soviet Union. To aid in the attack, he assembled a large force, including troops drawn from Italy, Romania, and Hungary.

At first, Axis forces fought well, though shortages of fuel slowed their advance. By the end of the summer, a large Axis force was poised to take the industrial city of Stalingrad on the Volga River. Stalingrad was one of the largest cities in the Soviet Union. Its factories produced tanks, guns, and other military equipment for the Soviet armies. Stalingrad's ports on the Volga shipped grain, oil, and other products throughout the Soviet Union.

FACES OF HISTORY

Dwight D. EISENHOWER
1890–1969



Dwight D. Eisenhower was known for being patient, diplomatic, and a skilled planner. With these character traits, he proved to be the

ideal person to lead the Allied armies in World War II.

Born in Texas and raised in the small farm town of Abilene, Kansas, Eisenhower attended the U.S. Military Academy and rose steadily through the ranks of the Army. During World War II, he was named supreme commander of the Allied forces in Europe. In this role Eisenhower planned and commanded D-Day, the invasion of France. After the war, Eisenhower served two terms as president.

Draw Conclusions In what ways did Eisenhower's character traits help make him a good leader?

Reading like a Historian

Propaganda Posters

Analyzing Visuals Many countries used propaganda during World War II to try to influence the way people thought. Propaganda is information and ideas designed to promote a certain cause. In World War II, governments would create propaganda posters to encourage citizens to support the war effort. Some posters urged people to join the armed forces

or to conserve food and gasoline for soldiers. Others warned about the evil intentions of the enemy.

To analyze what these posters suggest about World War II, think about

- the words in the poster
- the similarities and differences in the two posters

This German poster was created in 1942. It shows a German soldier on the battlefield.



The German text means "This is how we fight. You, too, must work for victory."

This American poster was created in 1942. It shows a German airplane in flames.



"Scrap" refers to the products Americans recycled to help the war effort. "Scrapping" also means "fighting."

**Skills
FOCUS**

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

1. Words What does the German poster mean by "You, too, must work for victory"?

2. Message Are the messages of the two posters similar or different? Why do you think that is?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H26

The **Battle of Stalingrad** was one of the most brutal of the war. After having bombed the city into rubble with air and artillery attacks, German troops moved into the ruins to wipe out the surviving Soviets. The Soviet defenders, pinned between the Germans and the Volga River, fought furiously for each bombed-out building and cellar hole. Soviet leader Joseph Stalin wanted to save the city that was named after him and insisted on holding it at all costs. Those costs were high. Estimates vary, but many tens of thousands of soldiers on each side died in this phase of the battle alone.

While somehow managing to hold off the German attack through the fall of 1942, Soviet marshal Georgy Zhukov (zoo-kov) gathered his remaining forces for a counterattack. By November, the Soviets were ready to strike. A strong force broke through the Axis defenses, quickly surrounding some 250,000 men.

There was still a chance for the trapped Axis soldiers to retreat to the west and try to break through the trap, but Hitler refused to allow it. Instead, he insisted that they stand and fight, promising to supply the force by air. This effort fell far short. Hunger, cold, and Soviet attacks soon took a dreadful toll. One German soldier recorded the scene in the overflowing field hospital.

HISTORY'S VOICES

“Here was the greatest misery that I have seen in my whole life. An endless wailing of wounded and dying men . . . most of them had received nothing to eat for days.”

—Alois Dorner, German soldier, January 1943

In late January, the German commander told Hitler that his troops had no ammunition, food, or medicine. “Surrender is forbidden,” was Hitler’s reply. Within days, 90,000 half-dead Axis survivors were finally captured. Many of them would soon die in Soviet prison camps.

Over 1 million Soviet soldiers had died in the defense of Stalingrad, but the result was a crushing defeat for Hitler. The seemingly invincible German army was now retreating to the west. This, along with the Allied victories in North Africa and Italy, marked a turning point in the war.

READING CHECK Summarize Why was the Battle of Stalingrad a turning point?

A Turning Point in the Pacific

Meanwhile in the Pacific, the attack on Pearl Harbor had been an enormous success for Japan. The damage to the U.S. Navy’s Pacific Fleet took time to overcome and limited the American ability to strike back at Japan. In addition, in the early years of the war the Allies chose to focus on the fighting in Europe.

The Allies Fight Back Fortunately for the Allies, the Pacific Fleet’s three aircraft carriers were not damaged in the attack on Pearl Harbor. Without the air power that aircraft carriers provided, Allied ground and naval forces would have been at the mercy of Japanese bombers. Still, following the devastation of Pearl Harbor, the Japanese navy ruled the seas.

The early months in the Pacific were difficult for the Allies. The Japanese forces were better equipped and fighting closer to home. They moved almost at will, conquering vital territory—Singapore, Hong Kong, Burma, and many strategic islands in the Pacific.

Another target was the American-held Philippines. There General **Douglas MacArthur** led a small number of American soldiers and poorly equipped Filipino troops in a doomed defense. Following the American surrender of the Philippines in April 1942, the Japanese forced 70,000 prisoners to march up the Bataan Peninsula to a distant prison camp. During this **Bataan Death March**, tropical heat, lack of food and water, and brutal violence from their captors killed 600 American and up to 10,000 Filipino prisoners. Thousands more of the survivors later perished in the inhumane prison camp.

The Battle of Coral Sea Japan was at the height of its power in May 1942 when Japanese and American aircraft carriers first came together in battle. The location was the Coral Sea, a body of water off the northeast coast of Australia. The battle took place as Japanese forces were preparing to invade the British-controlled Port Moresby on the island of New Guinea. A group of Allied vessels tried to block the attack. Both sides lost an aircraft carrier in the Battle of Coral Sea. This hurt the Americans more than it hurt the Japanese. Yet the battle marked the first time that the relentless Japanese advance had been stopped.

READING SKILLS

Understanding Causes and Effects

What was the effect of Germany’s loss at Stalingrad?

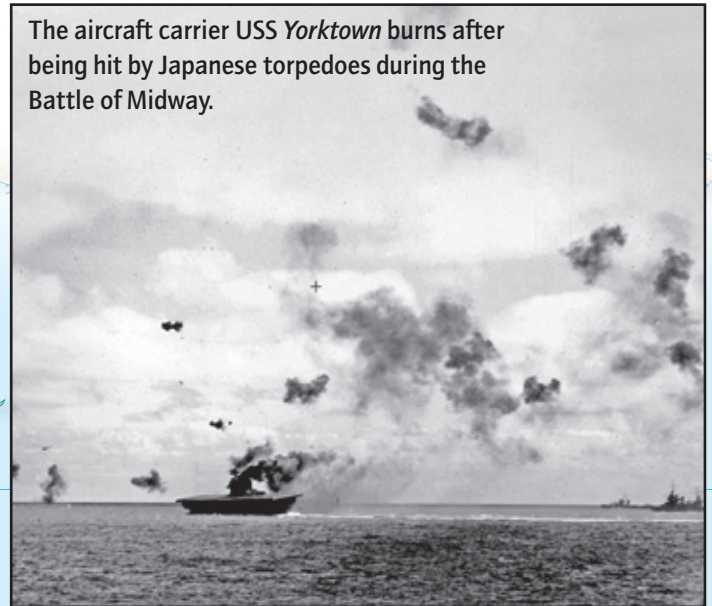
The Battle of Midway A month later, in June 1942, Japanese and American carriers again fought on the high seas in the **Battle of Midway**. The Japanese had planned to capture the strategic island of Midway in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, home to a key American military base. Japanese leaders wanted the island, but they also wanted to lure the American fleet into a naval battle in which the Americans would be outnumbered and destroyed.

The Japanese had the advantage in the number of ships and aircraft carriers they could bring to Midway. But the Americans had a more important advantage: they had bro-

ken the secret Japanese code used to transmit messages. As a result, the Americans knew the date and location of the planned Japanese attack. American admiral Chester Nimitz was therefore able to plan an effective defense that overcame the Japanese superiority in firepower. Nimitz's plan worked perfectly. In the battle that followed, the Americans destroyed four Japanese carriers with a loss of only one of their own. The Allies had won a great victory, and Japan's navy had suffered a terrible blow.

The Granger Collection, New York

The aircraft carrier USS *Yorktown* burns after being hit by Japanese torpedoes during the Battle of Midway.



Interactive

WAR IN THE PACIFIC, 1942–1944



GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

go.hrw.com
Interactive Map
Keyword: SHL WW2

- 1. Movement** Using the map, describe the Allied strategy in the Pacific region.
- 2. Location** Why do you think the Allies attacked so many small islands rather than Japan itself?

Island Hopping The Battle of Midway had changed the balance of power in the Pacific. The once great Japanese advantage on the seas no longer existed, and the Allies could finally go on the offensive.

In the Pacific, the Allies pursued a strategy that became known as island hopping. This involved skipping over Japanese strongholds and capturing weaker targets. These captured islands were then used as bases for the next attacks, which moved ever closer to Japan. The bypassed Japanese strongholds, meanwhile, were cut off from outside supplies and would eventually weaken.

This was not always an easy task. For example, the Allied invasion of the island of Guadalcanal, near Australia, led to a series of brutal battles in late 1942 and early 1943. For six months, American forces fought Japanese troops on the swamp- and jungle-covered island in the **Battle of Guadalcanal**. Each side won small victories until the Japanese troops finally fled the island in February 1943.

Many other bloody battles followed. During the fighting, the Japanese demonstrated a willingness to fight to the death that amazed and terrified the Allied soldiers. Still, the Allies made steady progress in the South Pacific.

From 1942 through 1944, the Allies captured locations in the Solomon, Gilbert, Marshall, Caroline, and Mariana islands. By the middle of 1944, Allied forces had fought to within striking distance of the Philippines. General MacArthur, who had surrendered the Philippines in 1942, led the Allied troops.

The first major battle in the Philippines was the Battle of Leyte (LAY-tee) Gulf, which took place in October 1944. It was the largest naval battle ever fought. Leyte Gulf saw the first major use of a new Japanese weapon—the kamikaze attack. The **kamikazes** were Japanese pilots who loaded their planes with explosives and deliberately crashed into Allied ships, sacrificing their own lives in the process. Kamikaze attacks did not change the outcome of Leyte Gulf, but they did sink dozens of Allied ships during the closing years of the war.

The Battle of Leyte Gulf ended in an Allied victory. It would take months more of fighting for the Allies to take control of the Philippines, but Japan's once-mighty naval power was virtually destroyed.

READING CHECK

Find the Main Idea How was the Battle of Midway a turning point in the war in the Pacific?

SECTION 2 ASSESSMENT

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Online Quiz

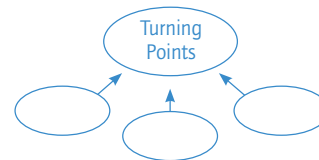
Keyword: SHL WW2 HP

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Recall** What was the key German weapon in the battle for the Atlantic?
b. Identify Cause and Effect What helped lead to the increasing Allied success in the battle for control of the Atlantic?
- a. Identify** What was the significance of the Battle of El Alamein?
b. Sequence What were the main events leading up to the Allied invasion of Italy?
- a. Identify** What was the significance of the Battle of Stalingrad?
b. Evaluate How did the stubbornness of both Hitler and Stalin affect the outcome of the Battle of Stalingrad?
- a. Identify** What was the first major battle in World War II that stopped the Japanese advance?
b. Elaborate Why was the outcome of the Battle of Midway so important to the Allies?

Critical Thinking

- Identify Cause and Effect** Use your notes for this section and a chart like the one below to identify the main turning points of the war in 1942–1943.



FOCUS ON WRITING

- Description** Write a one-paragraph letter home from the viewpoint of a civilian in Stalingrad during the Battle of Stalingrad. In your letter, describe the battle and its outcome.

World Literature



Wislawa Szymborska (1923–)

About the Reading Poet Wislawa Szymborska was born in western Poland in 1923. She studied Polish literature and sociology in college and published her first poem in 1945. Many of her poems are less than a page in length, but they are powerful reflections on subjects such as war, love, and human suffering. Szymborska was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1996.

AS YOU READ Think about what this poem might have to do with World War II.

Excerpt from

Hatred

by Wislawa Szymborska

See how efficient it still is,
how it keeps itself in shape—
our century's hatred.
How easily it vaults the tallest obstacles.
How rapidly it pounces, tracks us down.

It's not like other feelings.
At once both older and younger.
It gives birth itself to the reasons
that give it life.
When it sleeps, it's never eternal rest.
And sleeplessness won't sap its strength; it feeds it.

One religion or another—
whatever gets it ready, in position.
One fatherland or another—
whatever helps it get a running start.
Justice also works well at the outset
until hate gets its own momentum going.
Hatred. Hatred.
Its face twisted in a grimace
of erotic ecstasy . . .

Nazi soldiers round up Polish Jews in Warsaw in 1942.



Hatred is a master of contrast—
between explosions and dead quiet,
red blood and white snow.
Above all, it never tires
of its leitmotif—the impeccable executioner
towering over its soiled victim.

It's always ready for new challenges.
If it has to wait awhile, it will.
They say it's blind. Blind?
It has a sniper's keen sight
and gazes unflinchingly at the future
as only it can.

**Skills
FOCUS**

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

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World Literature

Keyword: SHL WRLIT

- 1. Analyze** What words does Szymborska use to suggest that hatred is a living thing?
- 2. Interpret Literature as a Source** How do you think Szymborska's Polish background may have affected this poem?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H28

HISTORY & Geography

The Battle of Stalingrad

Battles and wars are fought to control territory. For Germany, capturing the city of Stalingrad was a key goal—it would help the Germans take the rich oil fields and industrial areas of the southern Soviet Union.

But geography helped the Soviets win the Battle of Stalingrad. First, Stalingrad was located far from Germany, which made it hard for the Germans to supply and reinforce their troops. Second, the Soviets used the city's environment to their advantage, fighting a deadly urban war. Finally, the Soviet winter killed German soldiers and ruined equipment. In the end, Germany suffered a major defeat.

The Factory District

Some of the most intense fighting took place in the ruins of the factories in northern Stalingrad. Soviet defenders hid in the wreckage to ambush German attackers.

THE INVASION OF THE SOVIET UNION, 1941–1943



▲ German tanks and equipment lay in ruins after a Soviet attack outside Stalingrad.



▲ Soviet troops engaged in house-to-house fighting during the battle.

The Volga River

The wide river helped protect the Soviets from a German attack from the rear, but it also meant that getting supplies and reinforcements was difficult.

GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

INTERPRETING MAPS

- 1. Location** How did Stalingrad's location on the Volga River both help and hurt the Soviet defenders?
- 2. Human-Environment Interaction** How was the Battle of Stalingrad affected by geography?

The Holocaust

BEFORE YOU READ

MAIN IDEA

During World War II, Germany's Nazi government deliberately murdered some 6 million Jews and 5 million others in Europe. These actions became known as the Holocaust.

READING FOCUS

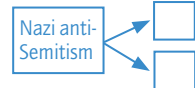
1. What was the history of Nazi anti-Semitism during the 1930s?
2. What was the Nazi government's "Final Solution"?
3. How did the world react to Hitler's efforts to destroy European Jews?

KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

deported
Final Solution
ghetto
concentration camps
Holocaust

TAKING NOTES

Take notes about Nazi anti-Semitism during the 1930s and 1940s.



THE INSIDE STORY

Can music keep you alive? As a young musician played Chopin's Nocturne in C-sharp Minor for a radio broadcast, a German attack knocked the radio station off the air. That was the last broadcast of Polish Radio until the end of World War II. The year was 1939, and the young musician was Wladyslaw Szpilman (SPEEL-man), a Jewish pianist.

After German forces stormed through Poland, Szpilman—with his family and thousands of other Jews—was forced into a small, confined area of the city of Warsaw. When other Warsaw Jews were shipped off to Nazi labor camps, Szpilman managed to escape. He survived by hiding in the ruins of Warsaw, living in the rubble of bombed out buildings. Somehow, he managed to find enough food to

stay alive. He kept his sanity by playing musical pieces in his head, mentally performing everything he had ever played or composed.

Near the end of the war, Szpilman was discovered by a German soldier, Wilm Hosenfeld. When Hosenfeld found out that Szpilman was a pianist, he demanded that Szpilman prove this by playing an abandoned piano. Szpilman had not touched a piano in over two years, but his fingers slowly remembered what to do. Soon, the sounds of Chopin echoed through the ruined building. Hosenfeld had grown to hate his government's murderous policies toward Jews and decided to protect the pianist. In the closing days of the war, Hosenfeld helped Szpilman survive by bringing him food and keeping his hiding place a secret.

When Polish radio returned to the air after the end of the war in 1945, its first broadcast was performed by Wladyslaw Szpilman—playing the same Chopin piece that had been interrupted by Nazi bombs six years earlier. ■

Nazi Anti-Semitism

At the time of Hitler's rise to power in Germany, there were about 9 million Jews in Europe. Most lived outside Germany, but Hitler still blamed Jews for many of Germany's problems. He also promoted a belief in the racial superiority of the German people. There was no factual basis for Hitler's anti-Semitism or for his claims about the German "master race." However, for many Germans who had suffered through World War I, the humiliation of the Treaty of Versailles, and the economic crises of the 1920s and 1930s, there was something appealing in Hitler's twisted vision. Jews were a convenient scapegoat—a group to blame for Germany's problems.

◀ Wladyslaw Szpilman at his piano



A Musician's Survival

Hitler's anti-Semitism was not new. As you read in the previous chapter, there was a long history of anti-Semitism in Europe. But in Nazi Germany this hostility based on religion changed into hatred based on race. During the 1930s, Hitler's Nazi government passed the Nuremberg Laws, creating a separate legal status for German Jews. Thousands of Jews were deported from Germany. To be **deported** is to be forced to leave a country. Many thousands of others left Germany on their own.

Emigration, however, was not an option for all German Jews. Nazi laws had left many without money or property, and countries were often unwilling to take in poor immigrants. The United States and many European nations were still recovering from the Great Depression and would not accept newcomers who would compete for scarce jobs. Furthermore, some countries, including the United States, had strict limits on the number of Germans who could enter the country.

As a result, at the start of World War II, about 250,000 Jews still lived in Germany and Austria. With the outbreak of war, emigration became even more difficult, and Germany finally outlawed it in late 1941. The remaining Jews under German rule were trapped.

READING CHECK Summarize Describe Nazi anti-Semitism in the 1930s.

The "Final Solution"

As Hitler's powerful armies conquered large areas of Europe during the early years of World War II, millions of Jews came under Nazi control. As a result, Nazi leaders eventually adopted a plan they called the **Final Solution**: the deliberate mass execution of Jews.

The Killing Begins The Nazis used several brutal methods to deal with the Jewish civilians who came under German control. At first, some Jews were forced into a **ghetto**, or a confined area within a city. Often, walls or barbed wire fences prevented the Jews from leaving, and armed guards shot those trying to escape. The most notorious ghetto was in the Polish city of Warsaw, which housed 400,000 people. Most of these people eventually died of starvation or were murdered by the Nazis.

FACES OF HISTORY

Anne FRANK
1929–1945



Anne Frank was a young Jewish girl who lived in Germany when Hitler came to power. Anne and her family soon fled to the Netherlands.

After war erupted, German troops began rounding up Jews in the Netherlands, and the Franks were forced to hide above Anne's father's office. Anne kept a diary of her family's two years in hiding.

In 1944 the Nazi secret police discovered the Franks and sent them to a concentration camp. Anne was eventually transferred to the Bergen-Belsen camp, where she died of disease in March 1945. Just a few weeks later, the camp was liberated by Allied troops.

Anne's diary was published following the war. It has since been translated into more than 50 languages.

Make Inferences Why do you think Anne Frank's diary has been translated into so many languages?

Other Jews were sent to labor camps called **concentration camps**, which were meant to hold the people Hitler called enemies of the state. At the camps, Jews and other prisoners were forced to work as slave laborers. Some were subjected to cruel medical experiments. All endured severe hunger, which killed many.

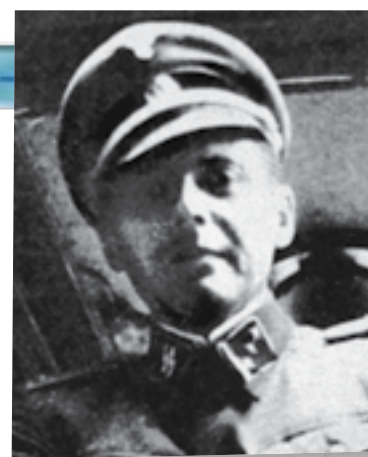
Hitler's forces also carried out large-scale executions of Jews and other civilians in villages across Poland. German soldiers gunned down men, women, and children without mercy.

During Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union in 1941, the Nazis established mobile killing units to destroy the Jews who lived in Soviet territory. These mobile killing units carried out executions on a massive scale, often aided by local people and police, known as collaborators. For example, in one two-day period in September 1941, nearly 35,000 Jews were murdered at a place called Babi Yar, near the Soviet city of Kiev.

Yet as bloody as this work was, Nazi leaders were not satisfied. The killing was simply leaving behind too much evidence of Nazi crimes. Therefore, the Germans established a number of special concentration camps in Poland for the main purpose of killing large numbers of Jews and destroying their bodies. These death camps, such as Auschwitz, had specially designed gas chambers in which thousands of people were killed every day. The camps also had furnaces for the disposal of bodies.

READING SKILLS

Understanding Causes and Effects Why did the Nazis establish death camps?



▲ Josef Mengele
in 1945

Was It the Angel of Death?

The body of Wolfgang Gerhard, dug up in Embu, Brazil, in 1985 was little more than rotting bones. But Nazi hunters believed Gerhard was actually the Nazi war criminal Josef Mengele—known as the Angel of Death for his cruel medical experiments on concentration camp prisoners. Could modern science find out once and for all?

How could he be identified? All the cells in the human body contain DNA. DNA directs the formation, growth, and reproduction of cells. Sections of DNA called genes can be used to tell one human being apart from another through a process called genetic fingerprinting. Genes can also be used to establish whether people are related.

In 1985, documents were discovered that connected Mengele to Gerhard, and a team of forensics scientists set out to determine whether the bones in Brazil were those of the Angel of Death.

The scientists used genetic fingerprinting to find the answer. They took DNA samples from the remains of Gerhard's body and compared them to DNA from Mengele's son, who still lived in Germany. The results? The odds were 1,800 to 1 that the remains were from anyone other than Mengele. Later, dental records and other DNA tests found the same results. In other words, the man who had been calling himself Wolfgang Gerhard was indeed Josef Mengele, the Angel of Death.

Draw Conclusions Why do you think it was important to determine the identity of Josef Mengele?

The Victims Jews were not the only victims of Nazi concentration and death camps. The Nazis also imprisoned other groups they viewed as inferior, including Poles, Slavs, homosexuals, people with disabilities, and the Romany, an ethnic group also known as Gypsies. By the end of the war, some 5 million people from these groups had died in Nazi camps.

It was Jews, however, who suffered the most under the Nazis. During the war, 6 million Jews—two of every three in Europe—died at Nazi hands. Entire families were killed. Today we refer to this mass murder of Jews as the **Holocaust**.

READING CHECK Find the Main Idea What was the Final Solution, and how did the Nazis attempt to carry out this plan?

The World Reacts

Other countries were aware of the Nazi government's anti-Semitism in the 1930s. After the outbreak of war, however, the full extent of Hitler's brutality was shielded from the outside world.

In 1942 people in the United States and Europe began to hear disturbing reports of widespread killing of Jews in Europe. At first, these reports seemed too horrific to believe. But as the reports were investigated and confirmed, officials in the United States and Great Britain met to discuss possible responses. No concrete action was taken, however.

Finally, in January 1944, after millions of Jews had already died, the United States established the War Refugee Board to help rescue European Jews. The board helped save some 200,000 Jews. But Allied leaders were unwilling to take actions such as bombing the railroad lines that led to the death camps. This government inaction was in part because Allied leaders did not want to do anything that might interfere with the war effort. Apathy and anti-Semitism also contributed to this inaction.

As Allied forces in Europe started to push back the Germans, they came upon Nazi camps. In the summer of 1944, Soviet troops made one of the first discoveries, an abandoned death camp in Poland. The Germans had tried to cover up evidence of their crimes before leaving—including removing or killing the prisoners.

THE IMPACT TODAY

January 27—the anniversary of the Soviet liberation of the Auschwitz death camp—is marked in many countries as Holocaust Memorial Day.

Eventually, though, the Germans were unable to hide their actions. When the Soviets liberated the Auschwitz death camp in January of 1945, they found about 7,000 starving survivors. They also found hundreds of thousand of pieces of clothing—a strong indication that many more people had been held there.

In April 1945, American forces reached the Buchenwald camp. There they found thousands of corpses as well as many inmates who were nearly dead. Around the same time, the British reached the Bergen-Belsen camp, where tens of thousands had been murdered.

The soldiers who discovered the death camps were shocked at what they found. American soldier Reid Draffen visited the Dachau camp after it had been liberated by the Allies, and remembered the horrible scene:

HISTORY'S VOICES

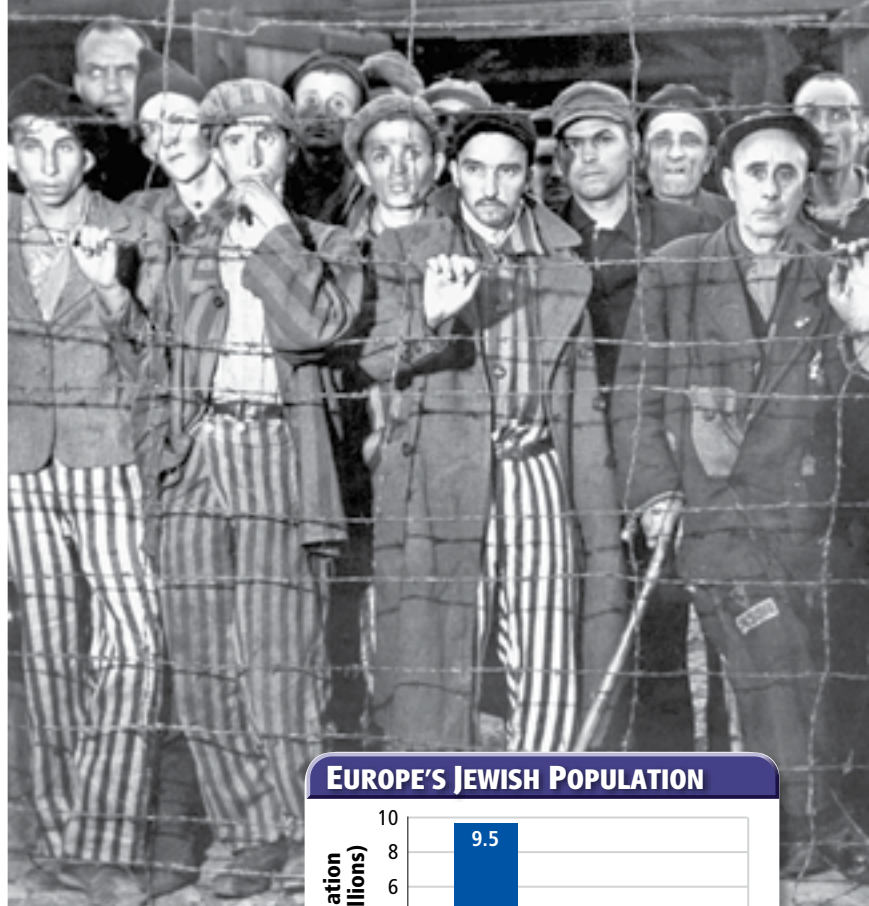
“I thought I had seen everything. I was a hardened soldier. I had been in combat since October 1944, and I had seen death and destruction that was unparalleled in modern times. But this—there are no words to describe this.”

—Captain Reid Draffen, in *War Stories: Remembering World War II*

The scenes of horror at the death camps gave the world a clear picture of what a world controlled by Adolf Hitler might have been like. But Nazi hopes of world domination were about to come to an end.

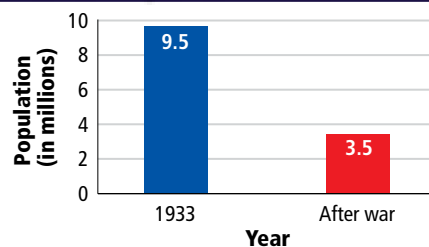
READING CHECK

Summarize How did the world react to Nazi killing of Jews and other prisoners?



▲ Prisoners at the Buchenwald concentration camp after their liberation by Allied troops

EUROPE'S JEWISH POPULATION



Source: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

Skills FOCUS

INTERPRETING GRAPHS

Analyze How many fewer Jews lived in Europe in 1950 than had lived there in 1933, before World War II began?

SECTION

3

ASSESSMENT

go.hrw.com

Online Quiz

Keyword: SHL WW2 HP

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Describe** What was the official Nazi policy toward Jews prior to World War II?
 - Identify Cause and Effect** What were the effects of Nazi anti-Jewish policies on Germany's Jewish population?
- a. Identify** What was the Nazi government's *Final Solution*?
 - Contrast** Contrast Nazi policies toward Jews before and after the start of the war.
 - Elaborate** Why did the Germans build death camps?
- a. Identify** What was the significance of the War Refugee Board?
 - Analyze** Why did the Allies fail to take more actions to stop the Nazi killing of Jews?

c. Predict What might have happened if the Allies had made liberating the Jews a priority early in the war?

Critical Thinking

- 4. Sequence** Copy the chart below and use your notes from the section to describe the main events of the Holocaust.

→

→

FOCUS ON WRITING

- 5. Persuasion** Could the Allies have done more to lessen the loss of life during the Holocaust? If so, what actions should the Allies have taken? Using information from the section, write a newspaper editorial that presents your views.

The End of the War

BEFORE YOU READ

MAIN IDEA

In 1945 the Allies finally triumphed over the Axis Powers in Europe and the Pacific, but the war left many nations in ruins.

READING FOCUS

1. How did the war end in Europe?
2. How did the war end in the Pacific?
3. What were the Allied plans for the postwar world?

KEY TERMS AND PEOPLE

D-Day
V-E Day
Battle of Iwo Jima
Battle of Okinawa
Harry S. Truman
Hirohito
V-J Day
Yalta Conference
United Nations
Potsdam Conference

TAKING NOTES

As you read, compare the end of the war in Europe and in the Pacific.

Europe Pacific

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THE INSIDE STORY

How do you take back an entire continent?

Packed tightly onto thousands of landing craft, more than 150,000 Allied troops set out for the beaches of German-held France. It was D-Day—June 6, 1944. When the ships neared shore, each landing craft's gate went down, and the soldiers had to plow through waist-deep water directly into German gunfire. Some were killed before they reached land. Those who made it to shore had to race past mines, ruined equipment, and their dead and wounded friends to find temporary shelter from the deadly fire.

Still, the invaders pushed on. As thousands of soldiers fell, thousands more fought their way up the bluffs that overlooked the beaches. One by one, they captured the German positions. By the end of the day, the Allies had taken all five beaches they had attacked. With over 10,000 Allied casualties, the price was high.

The first battle in the invasion of Europe was successful. The Allies had taken more than a year to plan the massive invasion, but it was worth the time it took. Germany now had to contend with a major Allied force in Western Europe and with the Soviets in the east. It was the beginning of the end for Germany. ■

STORMING THE BEACHES

◀ Allied troops land at Normandy on D-Day.

War Ends in Europe

While American and British military leaders were planning the invasion of France, German soldiers were busy fighting the Soviet armies in the east. After the Soviet triumph at Stalingrad in early 1943, the Soviets eventually pushed the Germans backward. By the end of the year, Axis forces had suffered 2 million casualties. Outnumbered, they were unable to stop the relentless Soviet advance.

Soviet Victories In early 1944 the Soviets finally ended the Siege of Leningrad. A major offensive in the summer achieved great success for the Soviets, leading to another 800,000 German casualties. Other important victories followed, driving Axis forces out of the Soviet Union and back into central Europe. By the end of January 1945 Soviet forces were within 40 miles of the German capital of Berlin.

D-Day As the Soviets forced the Axis armies back toward Germany, the other Allies were finalizing their plans for a massive invasion of Western Europe.

An effective invasion of Europe would be difficult. For one thing, the assault would have to come by sea. It would also have to be made directly against strong German positions.

The Allied preparations were led by American generals George Marshall and Dwight Eisenhower. In addition to assembling and training sufficient troops, the Allies needed to develop specialized equipment for transporting tanks and troops across open water. They also staged a complex plan to mislead Hitler about where the invasion would take place.

On June 6, 1944—**D-Day**—Allied forces invaded France. Over 150,000 troops landed on the beaches of Normandy that first day, forcing through the strong German defenses. Casualties were high, but D-Day was a huge victory for the Allies. With the beaches secured, more Allied forces poured into France. By July nearly 1 million soldiers had come ashore.

After some bloody fighting in the first few weeks following the landing, the Allied forces broke through German defenses in July. The Allies quickly reconquered much of France. By the end of August, the Germans had surrendered Paris. Eisenhower reported that “the enemy is routed [defeated] and running.”

The Battle of the Bulge But Hitler was not yet finished. In December 1944 he ordered one last, massive counterattack in Belgium. At first the Germans made solid advances, producing a bulge in the Allied battle lines. Thus, the battle became known as the Battle of the Bulge.

ACADEMIC VOCABULARY

sufficient enough of what is needed

THE END OF THE WAR, 1944–1945



By January 1945, the Allies had crushed the German offensive at the Battle of the Bulge. Germany's defeat marked the end of major German resistance. Within two months, Allied forces had crossed the Rhine River into Germany and were racing toward Berlin. At the same time, Soviet troops were advancing through Germany from the east.

The Germans Surrender The Soviets were the first to reach Berlin, surrounding the city in late April 1945. On May 2 they found the body of Adolf Hitler near his Berlin bunker. He had taken his own life. Berlin surrendered that same day.

With Hitler dead and Berlin in Allied hands, the war in Europe was all but over. Germany surrendered on May 7. The next day was proclaimed **V-E Day**—Victory in Europe Day. After nearly six years of bloody battle, the war in Europe was over.

READING CHECK **Draw Conclusions** What effect did D-Day have on the war in Europe?

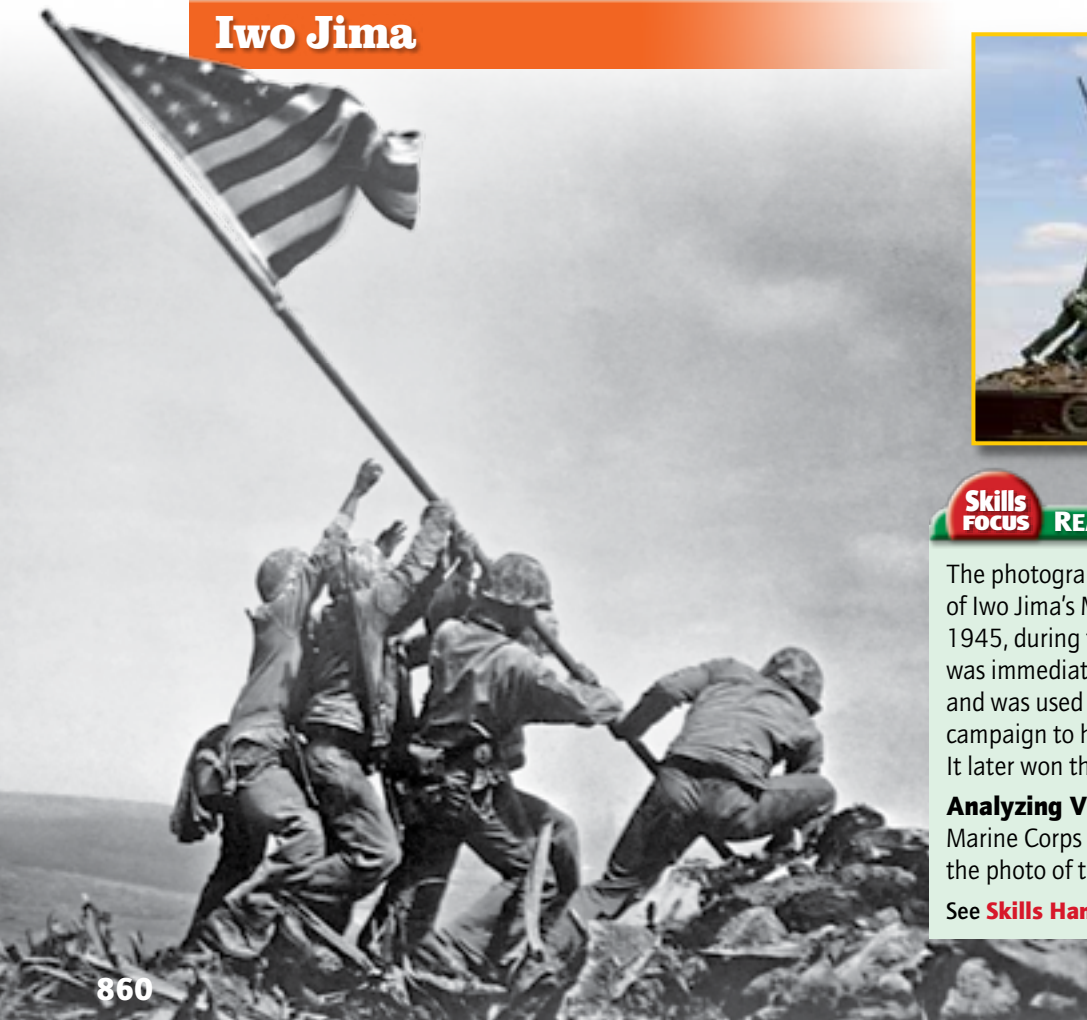
War Ends in the Pacific

Although the Allies had achieved victory in Europe, war was still raging in the Pacific. The Allied island-hopping strategy continued to push back the Japanese, but there were several battles yet to come.

Final Battles By mid-1944 American bombers had begun making regular bombing raids on Japanese cities, including the capital, Tokyo. The attacks did severe damage, but the great distance American pilots had to travel from their bases to Japan made the raids risky.

To reduce these risks, the Americans needed bases closer to Japan. In February 1945 Allied troops landed on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima (EE-woh JEE-muh), some 750 miles south of Tokyo. During the month-long **Battle of Iwo Jima**, nearly 7,000 Americans died to capture the tiny island. More than 20,000 Japanese defenders had been on the island when the Americans attacked. All but a thousand of them fought to the death.

Iwo Jima



The Marine Corps War Memorial is located at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

**Skills
FOCUS**

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

The photograph at left was taken on the top of Iwo Jima's Mount Suribachi on February 23, 1945, during the Battle of Iwo Jima. The image was immediately popular in the United States and was used by the U.S. government as part of a campaign to help raise money for the war effort. It later won the Pulitzer Prize for photography.

Analyzing Visuals Why do you think the Marine Corps memorial statue was modeled on the photo of the flag raising at Iwo Jima?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H26

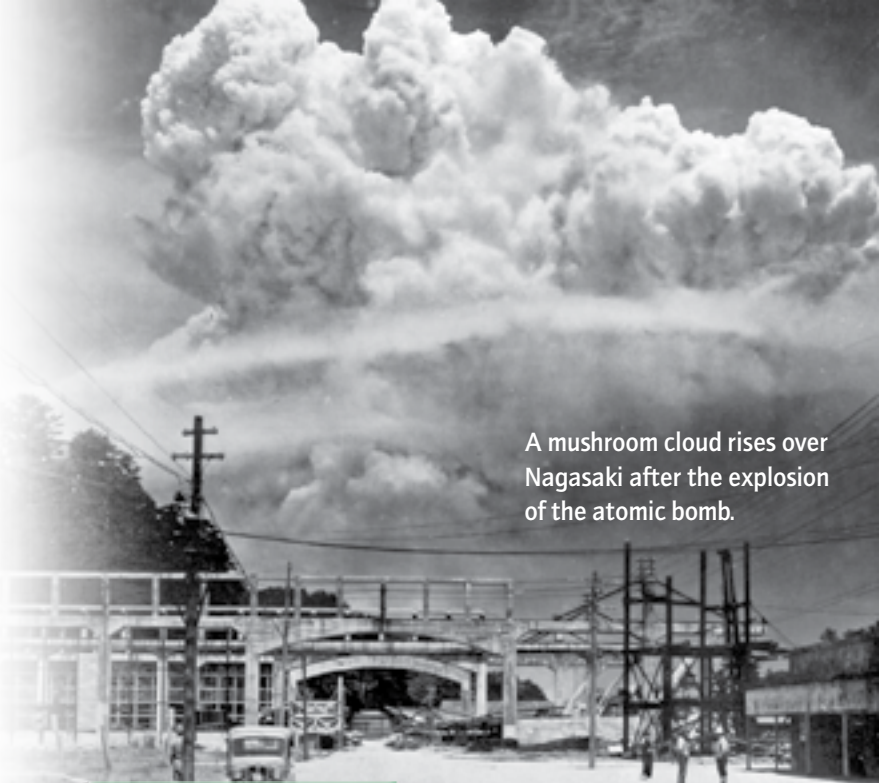
After Iwo Jima, the Americans invaded Okinawa (OH-kee-NAH-wah), an island barely 350 miles from Japan. The **Battle of Okinawa**, which lasted nearly three months, claimed 12,000 American lives. The Japanese lost the battle along with nearly all of the more than 100,000 defenders.

The Atomic Bomb After Okinawa, the next step for the Allies was to take Japan itself. But the experiences of Iwo Jima and Okinawa made the Allies dread the idea of invading the major islands of Japan. The Japanese defenders' willingness to fight to the death led American military leaders to conclude that an invasion of Japan would be too costly. They calculated that an invasion could cost up to 1 million killed or wounded Allied soldiers.

As a result, American leaders considered another option: the atomic bomb. This weapon used the energy released by the splitting of atoms and was far more powerful than ordinary bombs. A program to develop the bomb had begun in 1939, and a bomb had been successfully tested in July 1945.

Harry S Truman, who had become president when Franklin Roosevelt died in May 1945, was forced to make a difficult decision. Should the United States use the atomic bomb? Many of Truman's advisers believed that using the atomic bomb would help bring the war to a quick end and save American lives. Others believed that such a powerful weapon should be used only as a last resort. In the end, Truman decided to drop the bomb on a Japanese city in the hopes that the mighty new weapon would cause Japan to surrender.

On July 26, 1945, the Allies issued a demand for Japan's surrender. When the Japanese did not respond, plans to use the bomb went forward. On August 6, an American plane dropped an atomic bomb on the Japanese city of Hiroshima. The devastation was extreme. More than 70,000 people were killed instantly, and thousands of buildings were destroyed. Yet even this horror was not enough to bring a quick Japanese surrender. On August 9, the Americans dropped a second bomb, this time over the city of Nagasaki. Another 75,000 people died. Tens of thousands of residents of both cities would later die from radiation poisoning, an effect of their exposure to the bombs' radioactive materials.



A mushroom cloud rises over Nagasaki after the explosion of the atomic bomb.

PRIMARY SOURCES

Hiroshima

Father John A. Siemes, a German priest, was in Hiroshima when the atomic bomb was dropped on August 6, 1945. He later described the explosion:

"Suddenly . . . the whole valley is filled by a garish light which resembles the magnesium light used in photography, and I am conscious of a wave of heat. I jump to the window to find out the cause of this remarkable phenomenon, but I see nothing more than that brilliant yellow light . . . I realize now that a bomb has burst . . .

"The bright day now reveals the frightful picture . . . Where the city stood everything, as far as the eye could reach, is a waste of ashes and ruin. Only several skeletons of buildings completely burned out in the interior remain. The banks of the river are covered with dead and wounded, and the rising waters have here and there covered some of the corpses . . .

"As a result of the explosion of the bomb . . . almost the entire city was destroyed at a single blow."

**Skills
FOCUS**

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

- 1. Make Generalizations** What does this source tell you about the power of the atomic bomb?
- 2. Analyze Primary Sources** How would you expect the Japanese government to respond to the bombing of Hiroshima?

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H25



WORLD WAR II CASUALTIES



		MILITARY DEAD	MILITARY WOUNDED	CIVILIAN DEAD
ALLIES	China	1,310,000	1,753,000	1,000,000+
	France	213,000	4,000,000	350,000
	Great Britain	264,000	277,000	93,000
	Soviet Union	11,000,000	unknown	7,000,000+
	United States	292,000	672,000	6,000
AXIS	Germany	3,500,000	5,000,000	780,000
	Italy	242,000	66,000	153,000
	Japan	1,300,000	4,000,000	672,000

Source: Encyclopedia Britannica

Finally acknowledging Japan's utter defeat, Japanese emperor **Hirohito** surrendered on August 15, 1945, the date now known as **V-J Day**. World War II was finally over.

READING CHECK Find the Main Idea What brought an end to the war in the Pacific?

The Postwar World

At the end of the war, much of Europe and Asia lay in ruins. Tens of millions of people had died in the war, many of them civilians. The heaviest losses were in the nations of Eastern Europe, including Poland, Yugoslavia, and the Soviet Union, but Germany, Japan, and China had also suffered greatly. In these areas the physical devastation was nearly complete. Entire cities, villages, and farms had been destroyed or damaged heavily, and national economies were near collapse. Food, shelter, and medicine were scarce.

The war also uprooted millions of people in Europe and Asia. These displaced persons included former prisoners of war, survivors of Nazi concentration camps, people who had fled their homes when fighting grew near, and even people who had been forced out when national borders changed after the war. These millions of people had to begin to rebuild their lives. Tragically, this was made even more difficult for some Polish Jews, who returned to their homes to find that their property had been taken. Dozens of these Holocaust survivors were murdered by hostile neighbors.

Planning for the Future For years, Allied leaders had been planning for the day the war would finally end. For example, in July 1941, even before the United States entered the war, President Franklin Roosevelt met with Winston Churchill. They issued a joint declaration called the Atlantic Charter. The charter outlined what the two leaders saw as the purpose of the war. Together they proclaimed that they sought no territorial gain, and they looked forward to a peaceful world in which all nations chose their own governments and worked together for mutual prosperity.

In late November 1943 Roosevelt and Churchill were joined by Joseph Stalin at a conference in Tehran, Iran. There the three leaders agreed on a schedule for the D-Day invasion. They also agreed to work together in the peace that would follow the war.

HISTORY'S VOICES

“We shall seek the cooperation and active participation of all nations, large and small, whose peoples in heart and mind are dedicated . . . to the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance. We will welcome them . . . into a world family of Democratic Nations.”

—Declaration of the Three Powers,
December 1, 1943, Tehran

Yalta and Potsdam In early 1945, when the Allies were on the brink of victory, they were having difficulties agreeing on the plans for peace. These difficulties came to the surface at the **Yalta Conference**, held in Soviet territory.

The primary goal of the conference was to reach agreement on what to do with postwar Europe. Roosevelt, Stalin, and Churchill agreed on plans for governing the soon-to-be conquered

Germany. Stalin, however, was able to get his way on other key points, such as keeping territory that had formerly been part of Poland. In return, he promised to respect democratic ideals in the Eastern European countries his armies now occupied. President Roosevelt also managed to win some points. For example, he persuaded Stalin to join the fight against Japan soon after the war in Europe ended.

Roosevelt also convinced Stalin to agree to join a new world organization proposed by the Allies—the **United Nations**. Like the earlier League of Nations, the United Nations (UN) was designed to encourage international cooperation and prevent war. In June 1945 representatives of many of the world's nations signed the UN charter. The United States, Great Britain, France, the Soviet Union, and China formed the UN Security Council and had more power than other member nations.

In July 1945, Allied leaders met again, this time in the German city of Potsdam. The **Potsdam Conference** took place amid growing ill will between the Soviet Union and the other Allies. The Allies discussed many issues concerning postwar Europe, but often had difficulty reaching agreement.

Soviet Plans In the closing months of the war, American and British leaders were concerned about Stalin's intentions in Eastern Europe. They worried that communism and

CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF WORLD WAR II

QUICK FACTS

CAUSES

- Economic hardship and political unrest following World War I
- Aggressive leaders in Germany, Italy, and Japan wanted to expand their nations.
- Germany invaded Poland, and Japan attacked the United States.

EFFECTS

- Millions of people were killed, and large areas of Europe and Asia were damaged or destroyed.
- The Allies occupied Japan and parts of Europe.
- The United Nations was created to help prevent future wars.
- Conflict began between the Soviet Union and the other Allies over the fate of Eastern Europe.
- The United States and the Soviet Union emerged as the world's two major powers.

Soviet influence would spread in the postwar world. As you will learn, they were correct: Stalin would soon break his promises about respecting democracy in Eastern Europe. World War II had ended, but another struggle was about to begin.

READING CHECK Summarize What major decisions did Allied leaders make at Yalta and Potsdam?

SECTION 4 ASSESSMENT

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Online Quiz

Keyword: SHL WW2 HP

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Identify** What was the significance of D-Day in the war in Europe?

b. Identify Cause and Effect How did the Allies' careful planning pay off in the D-Day invasion?

c. Predict If the D-Day invasion had failed, how might the outcome of the war have been different?
- a. Describe** What enabled the Americans to go on the offensive in the Pacific?

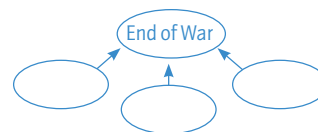
b. Make Inferences How did the experiences of Iwo Jima and Okinawa affect the Allied decision to drop the atomic bomb?

c. Predict How do you think the American development of the atomic bomb would affect the world in the years after the war?
- a. Identify** Identify one of the conferences attended by the leaders of the Allied nations.

- b. Evaluate** How do you think the coordination of military efforts may have helped the Allies in World War II?

Critical Thinking

- 4. Explain** Copy the chart below and use your notes from the section to explain what led to the end of the war.



FOCUS ON SPEAKING

- 5. Narration** Using details from the section, write a speech that an Allied leader might have given about the Allied plans for the postwar world.

The Holocaust

Historical Context The documents below provide information about the Holocaust.

Task Examine the selections and answer the questions that follow. After you have studied the documents, you will be asked to write an essay about how an event like the Holocaust could have taken place. You will need to use evidence from these selections and from the chapter to support the position you take in your essay.

DOCUMENT 1

An American Soldier's Reaction

Leon Bass was an African American soldier who visited the Buchenwald camp in April 1945, shortly after it had been liberated by the Allies.

Then we saw the crematorium where the dead bodies were outside, stacked up like cordwood, and we went into the crematorium and you could see the residue in the ovens—the rib cages, the skulls. And it was so hard to believe—to understand why. What did these people do that merited this kind of treatment? And it boggles the mind when you think that it had gone on for almost ten years before we got into the war! Why wasn't it dealt with? Why did nobody scream and shout, 'Stop!' They never did.

DOCUMENT 2

A Gestapo Officer's Justification

Maximilian Grabner was the head of the Gestapo, or secret police, at the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp. After the war's end, he tried to explain his actions.

To kill three million people is in my view the greatest crime of all. I only took part in this crime because there was nothing I could do to change anything. The blame for this crime lay with National Socialism [the Nazi Party]. I myself was never a National Socialist. Nevertheless, I still had to join the Party.

... I only took part in the murder of some three million people out of consideration for my family.

DOCUMENT 3

Nazi Camp Locations

Nazi prison camps spread throughout Europe as military victories brought more Jews under German control. Death camps were designed mainly to kill large numbers of Jews, while mobile killing units were Nazi police forces that traveled throughout Europe to execute Jews. Many of the Nazi camps were located near towns or cities in areas that had large Jewish populations.



DOCUMENT 4

A German Witness

Herman Graebe was a German engineer working in the Ukraine. On October 5, 1942, he accidentally discovered a Nazi mobile killing unit executing Ukrainian Jews. He later described what he saw.

I heard rifle shots in quick succession from behind one of the earth mounds . . . I walked around the mound and found myself confronted by a tremendous grave. People were closely wedged together and lying on top of each other so that only their heads were visible. Nearly all had blood running over their shoulders from their heads. Some of the people shot were still moving. Some were lifting their arms and turning their heads to show that they were still alive. The pit was nearly two-thirds full. I estimated that it already contained about a thousand people. I looked for the man who did the shooting. He was an SS [Nazi military police] man, who sat at the edge of the narrow end of the pit, his feet dangling into the pit. He had a tommy-gun on his knees and was smoking a cigarette.

DOCUMENT 5

An American Learns about Hitler's Plan

Howard Elting, Jr., was an American official stationed in Switzerland. The document below is from a letter he wrote to the U.S. secretary of state on August 10, 1942.

This morning Mr. Gerhart M. RIEGNER, Secretary of the World Jewish Congress in Geneva, called in great agitation. He stated that he had just received a report from a German business man of considerable prominence, who is said to have excellent political and military connections in Germany and from whom reliable and important political information has been obtained on two previous occasions, to the effect that there has been and is being considered in Hitler's headquarters a plan to exterminate all Jews from Germany and German controlled areas in Europe after they have been concentrated in the east (presumably Poland). The number involved is said to be between three-and-a-half and four millions and the object is to permanently settle the Jewish question in Europe. The mass execution if decided upon would allegedly take place this fall.

Skills FOCUS

READING LIKE A HISTORIAN

DOCUMENT 1

- a. **Recall** What did Bass see at the camp?
- b. **Infer** Do you think Bass believed that the Allies should have done more to stop the Holocaust? Why or why not?

DOCUMENT 2

- a. **Explain** How does Grabner try to justify his actions?
- b. **Analyze** What does Grabner mean by saying he took part in the murder "out of consideration for my family"?

DOCUMENT 3

- a. **Identify** Which large cities were Nazi camps near?
- b. **Draw Conclusions** Where were most Nazi camps and killing units located? Why?

DOCUMENT 4

- a. **Recall** How many bodies does Graebe say were in the mass grave?

- b. **Infer** What was the executioner's attitude toward the mass murder? How can you tell?

DOCUMENT 5

- a. **Identify** What did Gerhart Riegner believe was going to happen to European Jews?
- b. **Infer** Compare the date of Elting's letter to the date of the War Refugee Board's establishment. What do these dates suggest about the U.S. response to the Holocaust?

DOCUMENT-BASED ESSAY QUESTION

How could an event as large and as terrible as the Holocaust have taken place? Using the documents above and information from the chapter, form a thesis that explains your position. Then write a short essay to support it.

See **Skills Handbook**, p. H25

VISUAL STUDY GUIDE

World War II: 1939–1945

German aggression leads to war

- Rhineland militarized
- Austria and parts of Czechoslovakia annexed
- Poland invaded

Axis Powers make early gains

- Germany conquers Denmark, Norway, France, invades Soviet Union
- Nazis adopt the Final Solution and establish death camps
- Japan attacks Pearl Harbor, rules the Pacific

The Allies fight back

- British and Americans win in North Africa, Italy
- Soviets win at Stalingrad
- Americans win at Midway, begin island hopping

The war ends

- Soviets push back Germans from the east
- After D-Day, other Allies push toward Germany from the west
- Americans win in Pacific; atomic bomb ends war

Major Events of World War II

- 1939** ■ Nazi-Soviet nonaggression pact
■ German troops invade Poland and the war begins

- 1940** ■ Germany conquers France
■ Battle of Britain begins

- 1941** ■ Germany invades the Soviet Union
■ Japan attacks Pearl Harbor
■ United States enters the war

- 1942** ■ Allies win the Battle of Midway
■ Allied victory at El Alamein
■ Allies begin to hear reports of widespread killings of Jews in Europe

- 1943** ■ Soviets win the Battle of Stalingrad
■ Allies invade Italy

- 1944** ■ Allies invade France in D-Day
■ Allies begin to discover death camps

- 1945** ■ Allies meet at Yalta and Potsdam
■ Germany surrenders
■ Allies win battles of Iwo Jima and Okinawa
■ Allies drop atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki
■ Japan surrenders and the war ends

Review Key Terms and People

Complete each sentence by filling the blank with the correct term or person.

1. Neville Chamberlain pursued a policy known as _____ in dealing with the Germans.
2. Germany, Italy, and Japan formed an alliance known as the _____.
3. The British used the technology of _____ to help them win the Battle of Britain.
4. In 1941, Hitler's forces began the widespread, systematic killing that marked the start of the _____.
5. Hitler's plan to rearm Germany was an action that would _____ the Treaty of Versailles.
6. The Germans lost the _____ after being surrounded by Soviet troops.
7. In some cities the Nazis forced Jews to live in a _____, or confined area.
8. The _____ was the Nazi plan for the deliberate, mass execution of Jews.
9. On _____, the Allies launched a major, long-planned invasion of Europe.
10. The _____ was formed after the war to encourage international cooperation and prevent war.



Comprehension and Critical Thinking

SECTION 1 (pp. 835–842)

- 11. a. Recall** How did Great Britain and France respond to Hitler's aggression in the late 1930s?
- b. Explain** Why were the results of German attacks on France and Britain so different?
- c. Predict** How might the Japanese success at Pearl Harbor have later hurt their cause?

SECTION 2 (pp. 843–850)

- 12. a. Identify** Who won the battle to control the Atlantic?
- b. Explain** In what ways did the Allied victory at Midway affect the war in the Pacific?
- c. Make Judgments** How did the Battle of Stalingrad demonstrate Hitler's poor judgment?

SECTION 3 (pp. 854–857)

- 13. a. Describe** How did the Nazi government treat German Jews before World War II began?
- b. Identify Cause and Effect** How did German military victories lead to the Nazi's Final Solution?
- c. Evaluate** What do you think of the Allies' decision to focus on winning the war rather than immediately trying to save the people in Nazi death camps?

SECTION 4 (pp. 858–863)

- 14. a. Recall** What effect did D-Day have on the war in Europe?
- b. Cause and Effect** What events helped bring about an end to the war in the Pacific?
- c. Elaborate** In what ways did World War II affect the world?

Reading Skills

Understanding Causes and Effects *Use what you know about understanding causes and effects to answer the questions below.*

- 15.** Why did Germany begin to threaten much of Europe in the 1930s?
- 16.** What effects did Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor have on the war?
- 17.** List the causes and effects of Nazi anti-Semitism during the 1930s and 1940s.

Analyzing Visuals

Reading Like a Historian *The American propaganda poster below shows a man being urged to be quiet by Uncle Sam, a symbol of the United States.*



- 18. Explain** Why is the man—and the viewer—being told to be quiet? How can talk “cost lives”?
- 19. Draw Conclusions** Why do you think the artist used the symbol of Uncle Sam?

Using the Internet

go.hrw.com
Practice Online
Keyword: SHL WW2

- 20.** The Allied invasion of France, or D-Day, began on June 6, 1944, when 150,000 soldiers landed on the beaches of Normandy. Using the Internet, research what happened in Normandy on D-Day. Then write a report about the first 24 hours after the landing, using eyewitness accounts and other documents to support your work.

WRITING ABOUT HISTORY

Persuasion: Writing an Evaluation *In the late 1930s, many Americans did not want to become involved in conflict in Europe, believing that the United States should stay out of troubles overseas. Others thought it was dangerous to ignore the aggressive actions of dictators in Europe and Asia.*

- 21. Assignment:** In an essay, evaluate the wisdom of American isolationism. To provide support for your evaluation, use specific reasons and examples from the chapter and from other research.

Standardized Test Practice

Directions Write your answer for each statement or question on a separate answer sheet. Choose the letter of the word or expression that best completes the statement or answers the question.

- 1** In 1914 many European leaders believed that alliances would
 - A** improve world trade.
 - B** support the League of Nations.
 - C** lead to war.
 - D** help prevent war.
- 2** What event triggered the outbreak of World War I?
 - A** the Russian Revolution
 - B** Germany's invasion of Poland
 - C** the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand
 - D** French aggression toward Italy
- 3** During World War I trench warfare led to
 - A** a military stalemate.
 - B** very few casualties.
 - C** a quick end to the war.
 - D** war in the Pacific.
- 4** Who led the Bolsheviks during their October Revolution against the Russian czar?
 - A** Joseph Stalin
 - B** Karl Marx
 - C** Vladimir Lenin
 - D** Alexander Kerensky
- 5** During World War I, more than 1 million Armenians were deported or killed in
 - A** Germany.
 - B** Russia.
 - C** France.
 - D** the Ottoman Empire.
- 6** The terms of the Treaty of Versailles are often blamed for contributing to
 - A** the Russian Revolution.
 - B** the rise of Nazism in Germany.
 - C** Japanese aggression in China.
 - D** U.S. isolationism.
- 7** Which of the following was one political outcome of World War I?
 - A** The Bolsheviks in Russia were overthrown.
 - B** Tensions in European colonies decreased.
 - C** The Ottoman Empire broke apart.
 - D** The United Nations was formed.
- 8** The Great Depression helped lead to
 - A** World War I.
 - B** a rise in world trade.
 - C** the growth of free trade associations.
 - D** the rise of dictators in Europe.
- 9** In the 1930s, Germany, Italy, and Japan
 - A** worked to build empires around the globe.
 - B** became more democratic.
 - C** reduced the size of their militaries.
 - D** pursued isolationist policies.
- 10** Why did Japan invade Manchuria?
 - A** in response to a Manchurian attack on Japan
 - B** to gain control of Manchuria's natural resources
 - C** the people of Manchuria wanted to join Japan
 - D** Japan had an alliance with China
- 11** What was a common feature of the totalitarian dictators who rose to power after World War I?
 - A** They used violence and fear to maintain power.
 - B** They were elected democratically.
 - C** They were Communist.
 - D** They were Fascist.

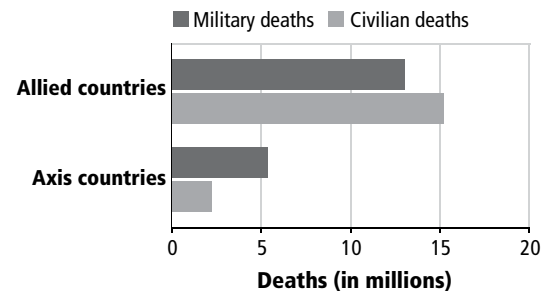
- 12** The quotation below by British prime minister Neville Chamberlain in 1938 is an example of what policy? Base your answer on the passage and on your knowledge of history.

"We should seek by all means in our power to avoid war, by analysing possible causes, by trying to remove them, by discussion in a spirit of collaboration and good will. I cannot believe that such a programme would be rejected by the people of this country, even if it does mean the establishment of personal contact with the dictators."

- A isolationism
 - B appeasement
 - C aggression
 - D containment
- 13** France and Great Britain declared war on Germany in 1939 as a direct result of
- A Germany's annexation of Austria.
 - B Germany's attack on France.
 - C Germany's invasion of Poland.
 - D Germany's militarization of the Rhineland.
- 14** Which of the following was a key turning point in Germany's invasion of the Soviet Union?
- A the Blitz
 - B the Battle of the Bulge
 - C the Battle of Midway
 - D the Battle of Stalingrad
- 15** Why did Japan attack Pearl Harbor?
- A Japan saw the United States as a threat to Japanese expansion in Asia.
 - B Japan's leaders had promised Germany they would attack the United States.
 - C Japan wanted Pearl Harbor's natural resources.
 - D Japan wanted to oust the U.S. military from China.
- 16** What was the goal of the Nazis' Final Solution?
- A to take control of the Soviet Union
 - B to murder all European Jews
 - C to drop atomic bombs on Great Britain
 - D to invade the United States

- 17** What best explains the data on the chart below? Base your answer on the data and on your knowledge of history.

World War II Casualties



Source: Encyclopedia Britannica

- A new military technologies and total war
 - B trench warfare and poison gas
 - C atomic weapons
 - D U-boats and torpedoes
- 18** The main purpose of the Yalta Conference was to decide
- A how to destroy Nazi concentration camps.
 - B what to do with postwar Europe.
 - C how to stop the spread of communism.
 - D when to invade Germany.

REVIEWING THE UNIT

Constructed Response World leaders played key roles in the events of World Wars I and II. These leaders included Kaiser Wilhelm II, Woodrow Wilson, Winston Churchill, Franklin Roosevelt, Adolf Hitler, Joseph Stalin, Emperor Hirohito, and Dwight Eisenhower. Recall the roles that two world leaders played in these world wars. Then write a brief essay in which you summarize how each was involved in and influenced the course of these wars and history.

CONNECTING TO THE PREVIOUS UNIT

Constructed Response Industrialization, nationalism, and imperialism all helped to set the stage for World Wars I and II. Choose one of these topics to explore. Write a brief essay in which you explain how your topic affected key countries in Europe and was one of the causes of the world wars.

Themes & Global Connections

THEME

GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENSHIP

How did nationalism affect government and citizenship in World Wars I and II?

Nationalism, which was a driving force behind the world wars of the 1900s, had many significant effects on government and citizenship in Europe. Nationalism led to government rivalries and alliances, opened the door to new forms of government, and inspired citizens to fight for and defend their countries.

EFFECTS OF NATIONALISM ON GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENSHIP IN EUROPE, 1914–1945

Government Rivalries and Alliances

- Europe's countries competed for power, resources, and influence.
- National rivalries led governments to build strong militaries and form alliances for security and protection.
- When conflict broke out, government leaders were committed to supporting their allies, which led to world wars.

New Forms of Government

- After World War I, some citizens wanted new leaders to rebuild their countries and restore national pride.
- As a result, fascist leaders rose to power and formed new governments in Germany and Italy.

Citizens Defend Their Government

- In warring countries, feelings of national pride and duty led many citizens to volunteer for military service.
- These citizens responded to their governments' calls to defend and protect their homeland from enemy armies.

THEME

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

How did industrialization change the science and technology of warfare?

The advances made during the Industrial Revolution enabled scientists and engineers to invent many new military technologies. As new weapons and equipment became a key part of battles, the nature of warfare changed. Industrial facilities became key components of a country's ability to wage war—and key targets for its enemies.

CAUSES AND EFFECTS OF MODERN WARFARE TECHNOLOGIES

CAUSES

- Military engineers developed new technologies like machine guns, tanks, submarines, artillery, poison gas, and atomic weapons.
- Existing technologies, like airplanes and steamships, were modified for war.

EFFECTS

- Battle zones became scenes of enormous death and destruction.
- War became an industrial competition as countries produced huge amounts of weapons and supplies to keep up with their enemies.
- Factories and industries became military targets and were attacked to weaken an opponent's ability to wage war.

THEME SOCIETY

In what ways did the world wars affect society in Europe?

World Wars I and II affected society like never before. As entire countries mobilized for war, governments placed new controls on society to help achieve victory. But in the end, the massive scale of the wars left societies devastated.

Mobilizing Society

Countries mobilized for total war and devoted all resources to it. Soldiers went off to fight, and men and women worked in factories to produce weapons, vehicles, and other war-related goods.

Controlling Society

Governments controlled information to shape public opinion and keep morale high. They also set up rationing systems and restricted the rights of groups they mistrusted.

World Wars

Societies in Ruins

The wars caused millions of military and civilian casualties. Huge areas were reduced to rubble, leaving towns, farms, and economies ruined.

Skills FOCUS

UNDERSTANDING THEMES

How did World Wars I and II affect government and citizenship, science and technology, and society in one country? Choose a country in Europe that fought in both World War I and II. Use your textbook and other resources to gather information about how each war affected that country. Then create a chart like the one below that compares and contrasts the effects of the two wars.

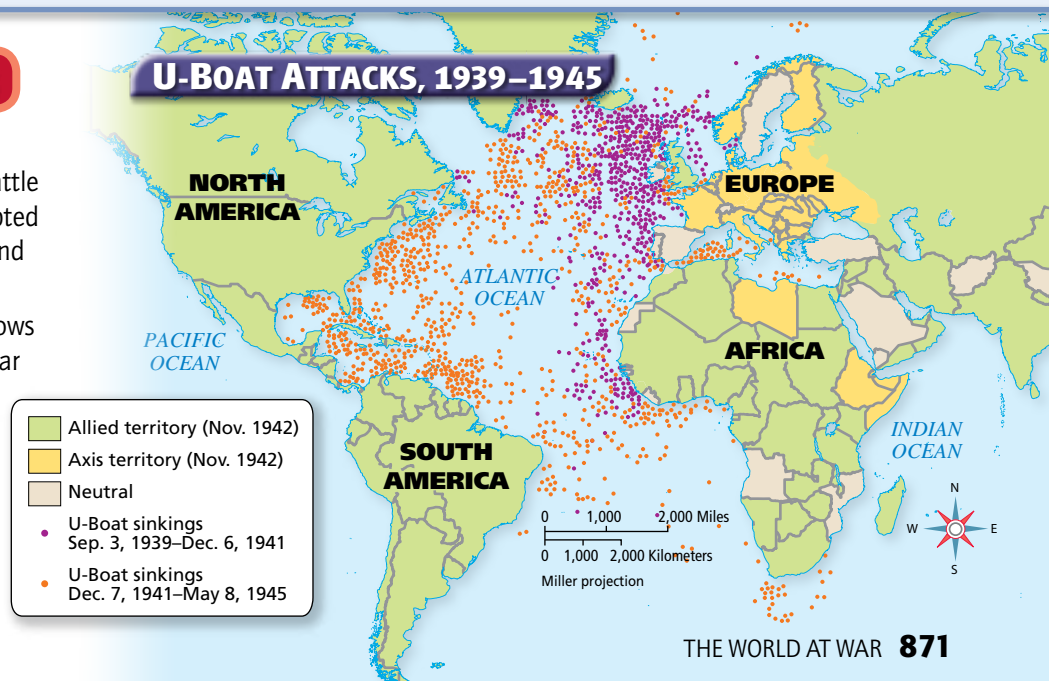
	World War I	World War II
Effects on Government and Citizenship		
Effects on Science and Technology		
Effects on Society		

Global Connections

World Wars I and II affected the entire world. Even places far away from the battle zones were affected as fighting interrupted trade routes, used valuable resources, and forced countries to choose sides.

Making Connections This map shows German U-boat attacks during World War II. How do you think these attacks affected places far away from the fighting? Which areas were affected? Use the map to write a short paragraph explaining how U-boat attacks are one example of the worldwide effects of World War II.

U-BOAT ATTACKS, 1939–1945



CHAPTER

26

World War I

1914–1918

MAIN IDEA A host of powerful factors, including growing nationalism, military alliances, and European rivalries, created conditions that quickly transformed a single assassination into a bloody worldwide war.

SECTION 1 Europe in 1914 was on the brink of war. The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand quickly led to the outbreak of what came to be called the Great War, or World War I.

SECTION 2 The development of new technologies and new types of warfare during World War I caused destruction on a scale never before imagined.

SECTION 3 Russia's losses in the war and widespread social unrest led to the Russian Revolution, which was led by Vladimir Lenin and the Bolsheviks.

SECTION 4 After several years of stalemate—and the U.S. entry into the war—the Allied Powers finally prevailed. The war was over, but the peace proved difficult to establish.

CHAPTER

27

The Interwar Years

1919–1939

MAIN IDEA Following the destruction and chaos of World War I, the postwar world suffered from instability and serious economic and social problems. Under these conditions, nationalism spread, and a new generation of strong leaders promised a return to power and glory.

SECTION 1 During the chaotic years after World War I nationalist feelings grew in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East, leading to widespread unrest.

SECTION 2 Beginning in the late 1920s, an economic depression quickly spread around the globe, creating ideal conditions for political change.

SECTION 3 Economic and social changes in Japan led to growing tensions in society. Japan's military gradually took control of the nation's government and attacked China.

SECTION 4 The social and political turmoil that followed the war allowed totalitarian dictators to take power in Italy, Russia, and Germany.

CHAPTER

28

World War II

1930–1945

MAIN IDEA The aggressive actions of Germany, Italy, and Japan led to the outbreak of World War II in 1939. At first the Axis armies won many battles, but after years of conflict the Allies triumphed.

SECTION 1 In the late 1930s, Germany, Italy, and Japan used military force to build growing empires. Their aggressive actions led to the start of World War II.

SECTION 2 The early years of World War II went poorly for the Allies. After the United States joined the war, however, the Allies recovered and began making gains against the Axis armies.

SECTION 3 During World War II Germany's Nazi government deliberately murdered some 6 million Jews and 5 million others in Europe. These actions became known as the Holocaust.

SECTION 4 In 1945 the Allies finally defeated the Axis Powers. But the war had disastrous consequences for many countries around the world. It left millions of people dead, millions uprooted, and many lives destroyed. Some entire nations were in ruins.

Thinking
like a HistorianSummary and
Extension Activity

The two world wars of the 1900s had dramatic effects on many countries' economies, governments, and relations with other nations. Perhaps no two countries were affected more than Germany and Japan. Choose one of these countries and create a chart, graph, or graphic organizer to show how world wars affected its:

- A. Economy
- B. Government
- C. International Relations