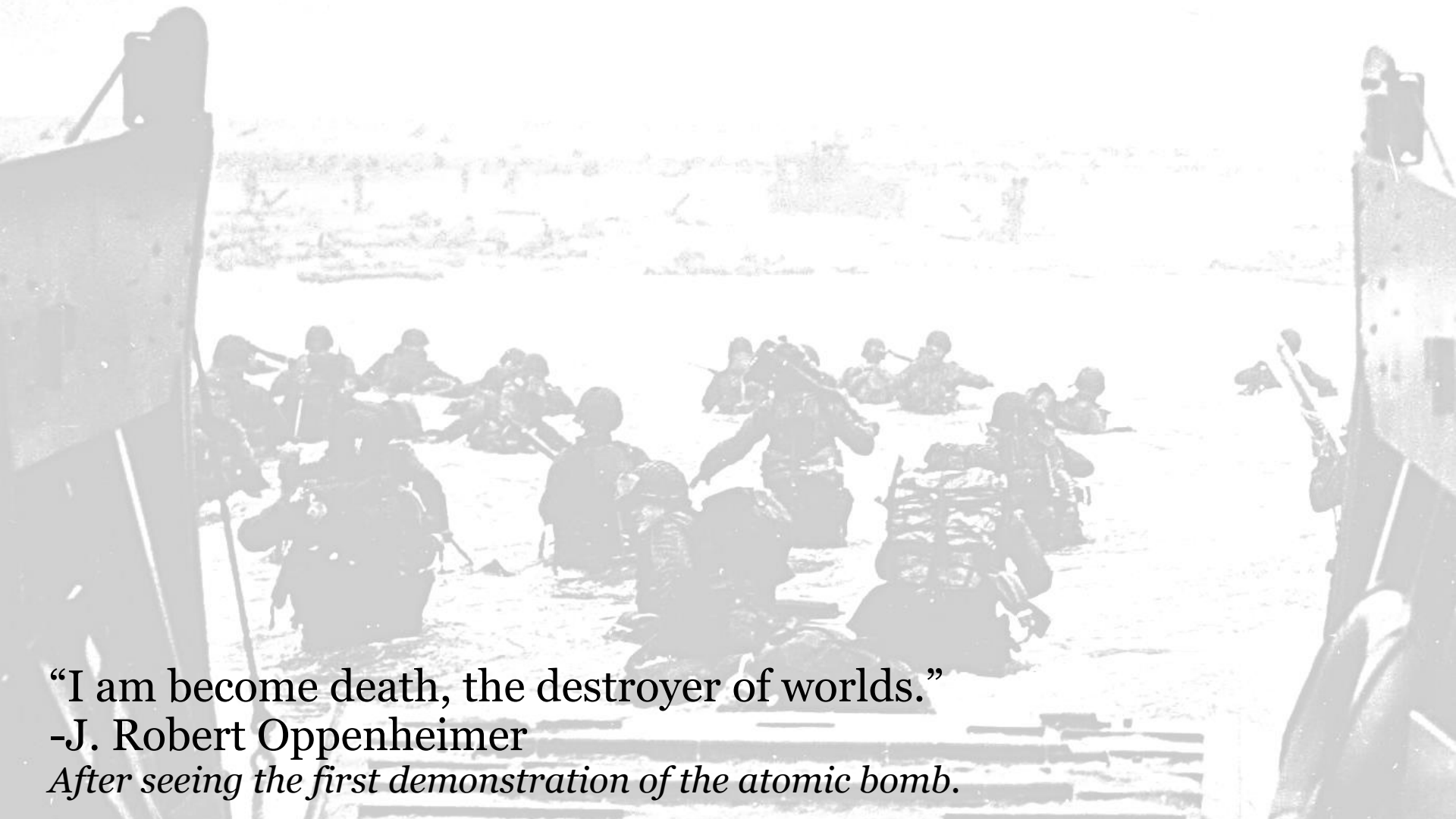


Chapter Twelve: America in World War II



“I am become death, the destroyer of worlds.”

-J. Robert Oppenheimer

After seeing the first demonstration of the atomic bomb.

Chapter Objective, Essential Questions, & TEKS

- **Objective:**
 - Identify the reasons for U.S. involvement in World War II and describe the major issues and military events of World War II., while analyzing its effects on the economy and the homefront.
- **Essential Questions:**
 - What factors led to the outbreak of World War II?
 - How were the U.S. and its Allies able to win victory in World War II?
 - What were the major effects of World War II on America and the world?
- **TEKS:**
 - History: 2 (A), 2 (B), 2 (C), 2 (D), 7 (A), 7 (B), 7 (C), 7 (D), 7 (E), 7 (F), 7 (G)
 - Economics: 17 (A)
 - Government: 19 (B)
 - Culture: 26 (F)
 - Science, Technology, and Society: 27 (B)

Chapter Vocabulary

- Adolf Hitler
- Appeasement
- Neutrality Acts
- Flying Tigers
- Pearl Harbor
- Rationing
- Victory Gardens
- Office of War Information
- Tuskegee Airmen
- Executive Order 9066
- Korematsu v. U.S.
- George Patton
- Dwight Eisenhower
- George Marshall
- Vernon Baker
- Omar Bradley
- Holocaust
- Bataan Death March
- Navajo Code Talkers
- Battle of Midway
- Nuremberg Trials
- Douglas MacArthur
- Harry Truman
- Hiroshima
- Nagasaki

Important Ideas

- Conditions in Europe after World War I were favorable to the rise of dictatorships. The Russian Revolution led to the world's first Communist state in the Soviet Union (U.S.S.R.). The dissolution of the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires led to the creation of fragile new democracies in other parts of Europe.
- Benito Mussolini formed the Fascist Party, which took power in Italy in 1922. Adolf Hitler took power in Germany in 1933 after the high unemployment caused by the Great Depression. These new dictatorships glorified violence, obedience to leaders, and extreme nationalism. They arrested, imprisoned and often killed their opponents. Hitler's Nazi Party condemned Jews and others.
- Hitler had an expansionist foreign policy. He re-armed Germany, helped Spanish dictator Francisco Franco, annexed Austria, and demanded the Sudetenland in Czechoslovakia in 1938. The League of Nations failed to stop aggressors. British and French leaders gave in to Hitler's demands in an attempt at appeasement. Hitler took the rest of Czechoslovakia, and then demanded part of Poland in 1939. This time, British and French leaders refused to give in. After signing a non-aggression pact with Stalin, Hitler attacked Poland, starting World War II in Europe. In Asia, Japanese military leaders had already occupied Manchuria in 1931 and had invaded eastern China in 1937.
- The German army developed a new form of offensive warfare-- the Blitzkrieg. Rapid coordinated movements of airplanes, tanks, mechanized troop carriers and infantry made it possible to advance at rapid speed. Germany quickly conquered Poland, defeated France, and controlled most of Europe by 1940. In 1941, Germany violated its non-aggression pact and invaded the U.S.S.R..
- Americans at first tried to stay neutral in the war. After World War I, there had been a return to isolationism. Congress passed the Neutrality Acts, prohibiting Americans from traveling on ships of nations at war, or selling arms to nations at war. They could only sell non-military goods on a "cash-and-carry" basis.

Important Ideas

- President Roosevelt was concerned at the rise of totalitarian states and the threat it presented to democracy. When Japan attacked China in 1937, he proposed that peaceful states quarantine aggressive nations. American volunteers also formed the Flying Tigers, a squadron of airplanes that helped keep supply lines to China open. After Germany occupied France, Congress passed the first peacetime draft. In 1941, Congress passed the Lend-Lease Act in order to sell, rent or lend wartime equipment to Britain, which stood alone in facing the terror of Nazi Germany. In 1941, Roosevelt met Churchill and they agreed to the Atlantic Charter, laying the foundation for the future U.N..
- Surprisingly, events in Asia rather than Europe brought the U.S. into the war. Roosevelt threatened an embargo to force Japan to give up some of its conquests. Japanese leaders wanted to seize Indonesia for its *oil*. On December 7, 1941, Japanese planes launched a surprise attack on the U.S. fleet at Pearl Harbor. The next day Roosevelt asked for a declaration of war against Japan.
- To pay for the war, the federal government sold war bonds. Factories converted from peacetime to wartime production. The government rationed food and other goods so that it had a sufficient supplies for armed forces overseas. Many Americans planted Victory Gardens to grow their own fruits and vegetables. The Office of War Information controlled radio broadcasts, made posters and newsreels, and tried to promote unrest in Germany, Italy and Japan. Women and minorities filled in the workforce for men overseas, and some women enlisted in the WACS, or Women's Army Corp. Tens of thousands of Japanese Americans were forcibly moved to internment camps as a result of Executive Order 9066. In 1944, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the order in *Korematsu v. U.S.*
- Large numbers of men enlisted in the armed forces, and others were drafted. African Americans were restricted to segregated units and kept from combat until later in the war. The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African-American pilots who served as bomber escorts. In the Battle of the Bulge, African-American units were used for combat. Vernon Baker was awarded the Medal of Honor 52 years after he had heroically faced combat in Europe.

Important Ideas

- Because Nazi Germany was the greater threat, Roosevelt focused on the war in Europe first. Stalin wanted the allies to open a second front in Western Europe, but the British felt the Americans were not prepared. American and British forces landed in North Africa in 1942 and moved to Sicily and Italy in 1943. General George Patton was one of the most successful U.S. commanders. General Dwight Eisenhower commanded the invasion of Normandy, known as D-Day. Allied troops advanced rapidly through France and retook Paris, but were surprised when Germany counterattacked at the Battle of the Bulge. After the German attack collapsed, Allied troops crossed into Germany.
- The end of the war came when Soviet troops invaded Germany from the east and the other Allies from the west. Hitler committed suicide in 1945. U.S. troops were shocked when they liberated the concentration camps and found the survivors of Hitler's attempt to exterminate Jews and others in the Holocaust.
- The U.S. also fought Japan in the Pacific in this multiple-front war. After Pearl Harbor, Japan took several Pacific Islands. U.S. and Filipino prisoners of war were forced on the Bataan Death March. The tide in the Pacific turned in 1943 when the U.S. Navy, commanded by Admiral Chester Nimitz, defeated a Japanese fleet at the Battle of Midway. Under General Douglas MacArthur, U.S. troops gradually retook the Pacific through the strategy of "island-hopping," eventually reaching close to Japan's home islands.
- President Harry Truman decided to use the new atomic bomb against Japan. After bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, Japan surrendered. World War II, in which over 70 million people died, was over.
- The war ended with the rise of two Superpowers- the U.S. and the U.S.S.R.. Germany and Japan were occupied by allied troops, and their leaders were tried for war crimes. Germany was divided into four occupation zones.

Return to Isolationism

- After World War I, Americans had returned to their traditional policy of isolation. They were more concerned with events at home than abroad. They felt safe behind the oceans separating them from Europe and Asia. They raised tariffs, restricted immigration, and even insisted that their wartime allies, France and Britain, pay back the war debts owed to Americans.
- There were notable exceptions to this trend towards isolationism. In 1921, President Harding hosted the **Washington Naval Conference**, in which leading world powers agreed to limit the size of their navies. In 1928, the U.S. also promoted the **Kellogg-Briand Peace Pact**, signed by 62 nations, renouncing the use of war.
- Presidents Herbert Hoover and Franklin D. Roosevelt both also tried to improve U.S. relations with Latin America. Under the "**Good Neighbor Policy**," the U.S. agreed not to interfere in the internal affairs of Latin American nations, and relations between the U.S. and the countries of Latin America began to improve.



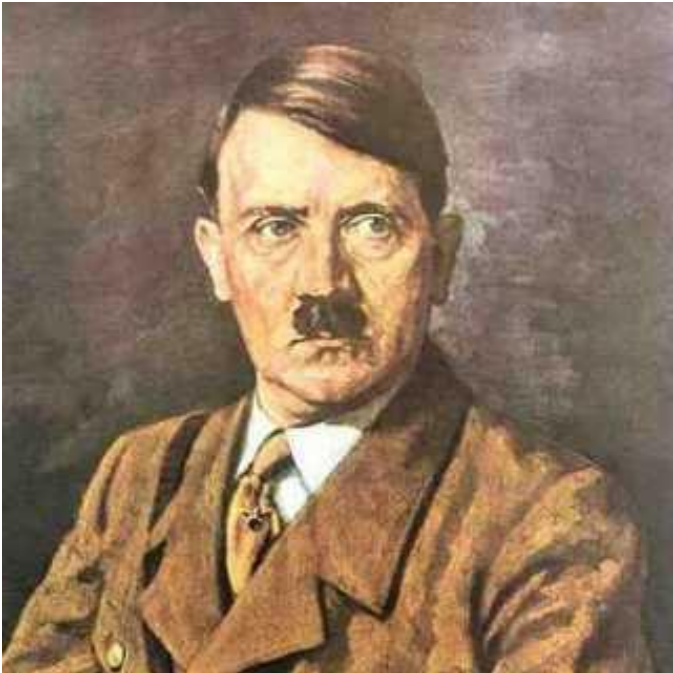
Rise of Dictatorships

- World War I and the Great Depression had profound effects on Europe, just as they did on the U.S.. Within two decades, Europe was again at war.
- After the **Russian Revolution of 1917**, Russia became the world's first Communist state, known as the U.S.S.R.. In the 1920s, **Joseph Stalin** seized power by eliminating his adversaries. Stalin established a brutal totalitarian dictatorship.
- In other parts of Europe, new democracies were established but stood on shaky foundations. Many conservatives feared the rise of Communism and despised democracy. They also held extreme nationalist, racist, and anti-Semitic views. Veterans from World War I had been exposed to the inhumanity of trench warfare, and violence became a part of political life in the years after the war. In Japan, military leaders assumed power with the support of the Japanese Emperor.



Rise of Dictatorships

- New political parties like the Italian Fascists and **German National Socialists (Nazis)** took advantage of these fears and emotions. In Italy, **Benito Mussolini** developed a new type of political party and seized power soon after the war. The spread of the Great Depression in the early 1930s led to high levels of unemployment and shook public confidence in the new democratic Weimar Republic, bringing Nazi leader **Adolf Hitler** to power in Germany. Hitler established a dictatorship as brutal or worse than Stalin's. He was determined to achieve German domination of Europe. Nazi aggression would be the main cause for the outbreak of World War II.



Failure of the League of Nations

- The **League of Nations**, charged with preventing another war, was too weak to resist these dictators. The idea of **collective security** -- that peaceful nations would band together to stop aggressors -- failed when countries like the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. failed to become members of the League. Germany and Japan left the League in the 1930s. The League did nothing to prevent Hitler from rebuilding the German army, Italy from attacking Ethiopia, Germany from bombing cities in Spain, or Japan from invading Manchuria and China.



Appeasement Fails

- Hitler had promised to expand Germany. In 1938, Hitler annexed Austria. Next, he demanded the **Sudetenland**-- a part of Czechoslovakia where many Germans lived. At first, France and Britain promised to protect Czechoslovakia, but when Hitler threatened war, they backed down. At the **Munich Conference** (1938), British and French leaders, without consulting the Czechs, agreed to give Hitler part of Czechoslovakia to avoid war. This policy of giving in to satisfy the demands of a potential enemy is sometimes known as **appeasement**. England and France hoped to achieve peace through compromise, but failed. Hitler became convinced that Britain and France were weak, and decided to make more demands.



German Invasion of Poland

- In 1939, Hitler made new territorial demands in Poland. Fearing Hitler intended to dominate Europe, Britain and France refused to give in. Hitler responded by signing a nonaggression pact with Stalin, in which the two secretly agreed to invade and divide Poland. When Germany invaded Poland in September 1939, Britain and France declared war on Germany. World War II had begun.
- In Poland, the German army unveiled a new type of warfare - the Blitzkrieg - which consisted of rapid, coordinated movements by airplanes, tanks, troop carriers, and infantry. The Germans quickly defeated the Poles, and before long they had also defeated the French and taken over much of Europe. While the main advantage in battle in World War I had been with the defense, the use of airplanes, tanks and mechanized transport brought the advantage in warfare back to the offense during World War II. The Germans, and later the Allies, also bombed civilians in cities to increase the terrors of war.



America Goes to War

- In the early 1930s, Americans were too absorbed with recovering from the Great Depression to be very involved in affairs overseas. As tensions in Europe rose, Congress passed a series of laws to keep the country out of war. Americans had been drawn into World War I when German submarines had attacked American ships. To avoid similar events, the Neutrality Acts (1935 -1937) prohibited Americans from traveling on the ships of nations at war. Americans were also prohibited from selling arms to countries at war. Americans could sell nonmilitary goods to Britain and other nations opposed to aggression, but only on a "cash-and-carry" basis.
- When Japan invaded China in 1937, President Roosevelt delivered his "Quarantine" Speech. He warned Americans of the growing unrest in the world and told them that peaceful nations had to act together to quarantine (*isolate*) aggressive nations.
- Roosevelt encouraged democratic nations to boycott aggressors. Most Americans, however, remained opposed to U.S. military action in either Europe or Asia.



America Goes to War

- Not wishing to see all of China fall to Japan, the British used the Burma Road to send supplies. When this 700-mile route was cut off, a group of American volunteer fighter pilots, known as the Flying Tigers, were recruited to send supplies and to engage in combat with Japanese pilots. These pilots destroyed almost 300 Japanese aircraft. Their abilities as pilots made possible stirring victories when early news stories in the U.S. were mostly filled with reports of Japanese forces advancing in the Pacific.
- Even after 1939, Americans still hoped to avoid involvement in the war, but they began making preparations just in case they were dragged into the conflict. Congress increased spending on the army and navy, and enacted the first peacetime draft. Roosevelt also took the unusual decision of running for a third term - the first and last President to do so.
- In 1941, Roosevelt proposed the Lend-Lease Act to sell, lease, or lend war materials to "any country whose defense the President deems vital to the defense of the U.S.." American battleships began protecting British ships crossing the Atlantic with supplies for Britain.
- The same year, Roosevelt told Americans he hoped to establish a world based on "Four Freedoms": freedom of speech and expression, freedom of religion, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. Later in 1941, Roosevelt met with British Prime Minister Winston Churchill aboard a U.S. warship in the Atlantic. Roosevelt and Churchill announced that their countries sought no territorial gains, freedom of the seas, and an end to war. They signed the Atlantic Charter, laying the foundation for the later United Nations.

America Enters the War

- President Roosevelt believed that U.S. entry into the war was inevitable. If Hitler defeated Britain, many feared he would later attack the U.S.. In 1941, armed American merchant ships were authorized to carry supplies directly to Britain. It seemed that U.S. involvement in the war was only a matter of time.
- Surprisingly, events in Asia, not Europe, finally brought the U.S. into the war. Just as German ambitions had triggered the war in Europe, Japan's aggressive designs led to war in Asia.
- Japan's late 19th century industrialization had been remarkably successful. But Japanese leaders needed raw materials and markets for their industries. They also wished to replace European imperialism in Asia with the imperialism of an Asian power. Japan's military began to influence Japanese national policy. In 1931, Japan invaded Manchuria. In 1937, Japan attacked the rest of China. When Japan occupied southern Indochina in 1941, Roosevelt reacted by freezing Japanese assets in the U.S. and cutting off all trade with Japan. Roosevelt offered to resume trade only if Japan withdrew from China and Indochina. Japanese leaders refused.



Japan Prepares a Surprise Attack

- Japanese military leaders decided to attack Indonesia to obtain oil for their war effort. Realizing such a move would bring America into the war, they decided to attack first. Japanese leaders believed a surprise attack would catch the Americans unprepared, temporarily eliminate U.S. naval power from the Pacific, and allow Japan to fortify its positions in the Pacific. The Japanese assumed that before the U.S. could recover from this surprise blow, Japan would be able to achieve all of its objectives in East Asia and the Pacific.
- Japanese leaders also believed that Americans would soon tire of the war and negotiate a compromise peace -- leaving Japan in control of East Asia. On the morning of December 7, 1941, two waves of Japanese airplanes attacked the U.S. Pacific fleet stationed in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The Japanese attack sank or severely damaged 18 U.S. ships. On the airfields, more than 260 airplanes were damaged or destroyed, while the attack killed or injured almost 6,000 Americans .
- Four days later, Germany and Italy, allies of Japan, declared war on the U.S.. Americans were now engaged in a war on two fronts-- the Atlantic and Pacific .



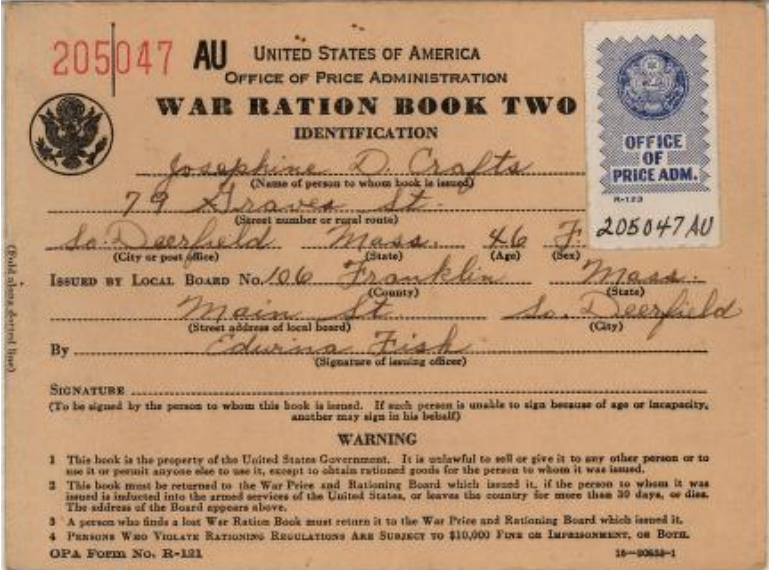
Paying for the War

- The U.S. government now faced the giant task of mobilizing American manpower and production to meet its enormous wartime needs. The demand for labor for the war effort brought an end to the lingering effects of the Great Depression.
- To raise the enormous amounts of money needed to pay for the war, the government issued War Bonds and encouraged citizens to buy them. The sale of war bonds also reduced the amount of currency in the economy, helping to keep inflation rates down. During World War II, 85 million Americans bought bonds, bringing \$185 billion into the federal treasury. In the end, the war cost \$350 billion - ten times the cost of World War I. World War II marked a shift for the U.S. as it changed from a creditor to a debtor nation.
- The successful sale of war bonds also illustrated the high level of volunteerism during the war -- the willingness of millions of Americans to help in the war effort.



Industrial Production & Rationing

- U.S. industries switched rapidly from peacetime to wartime production. Automobile factories converted to making tanks. Special advisory boards managed the war economy. They instituted rationing to control the use of raw materials. Americans were asked to conserve anything that could be used in the war effort. Rationing regulated the amount of goods that a consumer could obtain. It was introduced to avoid public anger over shortages and to share in the sacrifices of war.
- The government rationed essential goods like food, coffee, tires, gasoline, and even clothing. Ration coupons were issued to each family, based on its size. Americans were generally happy to help in the war effort in order to bring their loved ones home safely. The draft and the expansion of industrial production finally brought an end to the high unemployment of the Great Depression. Women, African Americans, and other minorities filled the gap as other workers went to fight the war.



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Victory Gardens

- During the war, Americans also planted Victory Gardens. These vegetable gardens helped to make sure that an adequate food supply was available for both troops and civilians. The gardens helped people in rural and urban neighborhoods grow their own food for their families, making more of the food raised by farmers available to the government for shipment to American soldiers overseas.



Office of War Information

- A primary focus of the federal government during the war was control of the content and imagery of war messages. In 1942, the President created the Office of War Information (OWI). Among its wide-ranging responsibilities was the production of pro-Allied, anti-Axis propaganda, such as movies and posters, to make citizens aware of how they could help in the war effort. The OWI produced its own radio programs, released its own newsreels, and required that all movies produced during the war contribute in some way to the war effort. OWI messages asked citizens to contribute time and money, to create products, to conserve resources, and to donate to the war effort in personal ways. The OWI also started the Voice of America during the war, sending messages overseas. The OWI tried to stir up distrust of German, Italian and Japanese leaders, to lower the morale of enemy troops and populations, and to encourage their surrender.



Women in the Work Force

- For many women in America, World War II brought not only sacrifices, but also new jobs, new skills, and new opportunities. Although prevented from enlisting in the regular armed forces, women joined the new Women's Army Corps, or WACS, in large numbers. After basic training, most of these women took clerical jobs in the military.
- In civilian life, many women replaced jobs formerly held by men, such as in shipbuilding and aircraft production. The idea was to have women fill jobs formerly held by men so that more men could be sent into combat. Songs like *Rosie the Riveter* celebrated women's new roles, although some private contractors still refused to hire women. Between 1941 and 1945, more than 6.5 million women entered the work force.



Ethnic Minorities: African Americans

- Like women, members of minorities filled the workforce to replace men sent overseas. Many worked in war industries and government agencies. African American soldiers also played a significant role in World War II. More than two and a half million registered for the draft, of whom one million eventually served, even though they were forced to serve in segregated units. African Americans had to battle on two fronts: the enemy overseas and prejudice at home.
- African-American leaders demanded and finally obtained permission to form all-black combat units. The **Tuskegee Airmen** were an African-American fighter group in the Air Corps. Their main job was to provide escorts for pilots on bombing missions. They performed so well in combat that bomber groups often specifically requested their support. By 1944, the army had come under pressure to allow African Americans to engage in combat on the ground and also formed an African American infantry division.



Ethnic Minorities

- **Native Americans:**

- Native Americans enlisted for military service in higher proportions than any other minority group. More than 25,000 served in combat during the war. Nearly 40,000 Native American men and women left their reservations for the first time to work in defense industries.

- **Mexican Americans:**

- During the war, Mexican Americans served in both the army and navy, and fought in all of the major campaigns. Despite this, Mexican Americans, especially in California, continued to face segregated housing, high unemployment, and low wages.



Forced Relocation of Japanese Americans

- The attack on Pearl Harbor created fear among many Americans, especially along the West coast, that Japanese Americans (or *Nisei*) might commit acts of sabotage. In part, these fears were racially-motivated, since there was no evidence that Japanese Americans were any more disloyal than German Americans or Italian Americans. Nonetheless, in February 1942, President Roosevelt issued **Executive Order 9066**. This order permitted military commanders to require Japanese Americans to relocate to interior internment camps away from Western coastal regions. In these camps, Japanese Americans lived in primitive and crowded conditions.



Forced Relocation of Japanese Americans

- The relocation raised constitutional issues in wartime. Roosevelt justified the measures as a military necessity. The Supreme Court upheld the relocations in ***Korematsu v. U.S.*** Korematsu was a Japanese American convicted of continuing to remain in a restricted area. He believed his constitutional rights had been violated. The Supreme Court upheld Roosevelt's order on the grounds that constitutional liberties may be limited in wartime. Fifty years later, Congress apologized to the interned Japanese Americans and voted to pay compensation to the families involved.
- During the war, a small number of German and Italian resident aliens were also interned. About 2,000 German alien residents were forcibly sent back to Germany. Germans were also sent from Latin America to the U.S. to be used in prisoner exchanges with Germany.



War in Europe

- Although the Japanese had attacked Pearl Harbor, President Roosevelt decided to focus American energies on defeating Germany first. By the time the Americans entered the war, Hitler was in control of most of Europe and North Africa. Hitler made his greatest mistake when he invaded the U.S.S.R. in June 1941 and declared war on the U.S. before defeating Britain. By late 1941, the rapid German advance into the U.S.S.R. was stopped just short of Moscow. Roosevelt and Churchill promised Stalin they would open a second front against Germany in the West, to relieve pressure on the Soviet army.



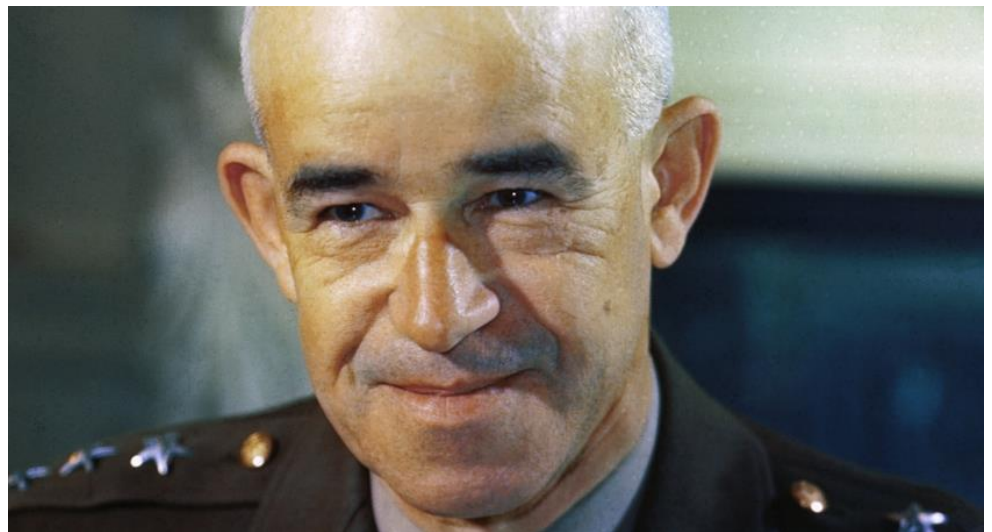
Campaign in Africa & Italy

- The Americans and British now began one of the greatest collaborations in military history. Churchill advised delay before invading Europe. In 1942, Allied troops landed in North Africa. After defeating German forces, they crossed the Mediterranean and advanced into Sicily and Italy in 1943.
- George Patton was one of the commanders of the forces that invaded North Africa and Sicily. He came from a military family, had participated in the expedition against Pancho Villa, and served under Pershing in World War I. He played an important role in the use of tanks. Patton told American soldiers they must have a "killer instinct" to succeed. An unconventional military leader, Patton was given command of the American Third Army. He was popular among his troops because he had high survival rates, but he could also be harsh in his treatment of those under his command. Under Patton's leadership, the Third Army would quickly move through Europe, capturing large numbers of enemy soldiers, and freeing a vast territory.



Allies Invade France & Germany

- By 1944, the Germans suspected that the Allies would attempt an invasion of France. On June 6, 1944 **D-Day** -- 156,000 Allied troops under the command of General **Dwight Eisenhower** began the invasion by landing at five beaches on the northwest coast of France at **Normandy**. Eisenhower selected General **Omar Bradley** to lead the first American army to land in France. Prior to the landing, Allied planes attacked Nazi forces. Then the largest amphibious operation up until that time took place as landing craft carried thousands of Allied troops to the beaches of Normandy.
- After the landing, the Allies began moving eastward liberating Paris in August 1944. However, the Allies advanced so quickly they were caught by surprise when Germans counter-attacked in the **Battle of the Bulge** in December 1944. After this German attack collapsed, Allied troops crossed the Rhine River and General Bradley pushed his troops for the final offensive into Germany. American, British, and Free French forces led the invasion into Germany from the west, while Soviet forces entered from the east. In May 1945, the Soviets captured Berlin. Rather than be taken prisoner, Hitler committed suicide and Germany surrendered. The Soviets had sustained the greatest losses in the conflict. More than 20 million Soviet soldiers and citizens had been killed in the war.



Vernon Baker

- **Vernon Baker** was one of the first African-American soldiers to see combat in the war. In 1945, Baker slipped through mine fields, barbed wire, and German defenses to single-handedly remove three machine gun nests, two observation posts and two bunkers. Baker emerged as a symbol of the selfless sacrifice and courage of African-American soldiers. Members of his platoon nominated him for the Distinguished Service Cross. It took fifty-two years before President Clinton finally awarded Baker the nation's highest praise for battlefield courage -- the Congressional Medal of Honor.



The Holocaust

- **Genocide** is an effort to murder an entire people or nationality. Part of Hitler's Nazi philosophy was his intense hatred of Jewish people, on whom he blamed all of Germany's problems. The **Holocaust** refers to the attempted genocide of the Jews during World War II. After the outbreak of the war, Hitler and other Nazi leaders decided to murder all European Jews. He called his plan the "**Final Solution.**" At first, Jews were machine gunned next to open trenches they had been forced to dig themselves, or gassed in trucks.
- When this method of extermination proved too slow for the Nazis, large **concentration camps** were built across Europe. Jews from Nazi-controlled countries were sent in cramped railroad cattle cars to these camps.



The Holocaust

- When they arrived in the camps, most were killed with poison gas and their bodies were burned in large ovens. Some were spared to do the work of running the camp. These inmates were half-starved and subjected to inhumane conditions. About six million Jews - 2/3 of those living in Europe - were killed during the Holocaust. Six million gypsies, Slavs, political prisoners, elderly, mentally-disabled, and others also died in Nazi concentration camps.
- During the last months of the war, the Allies advanced into Germany, where the true horror of Nazi brutality was revealed. American army units were the first to liberate concentration camps. They were shocked to see the half-starved, dehydrated, disease-ridden prisoners.



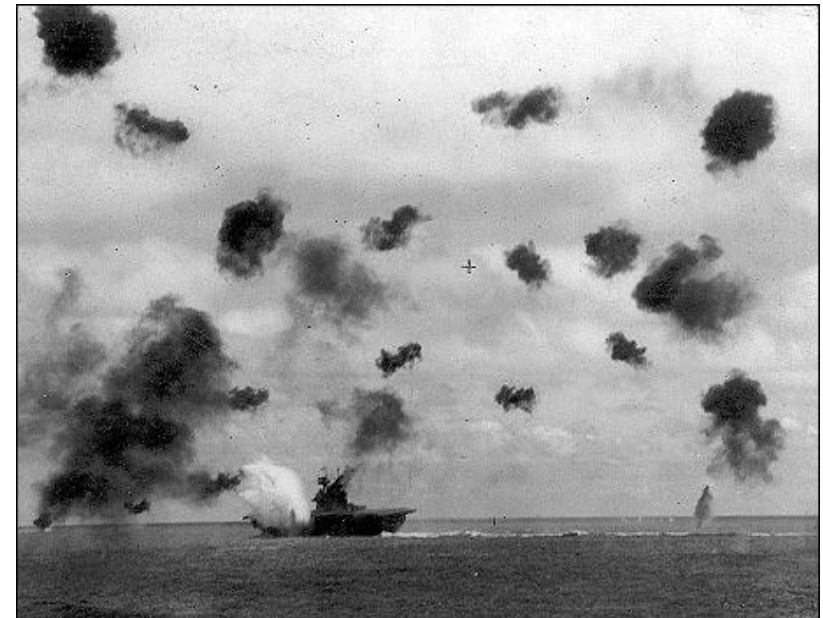
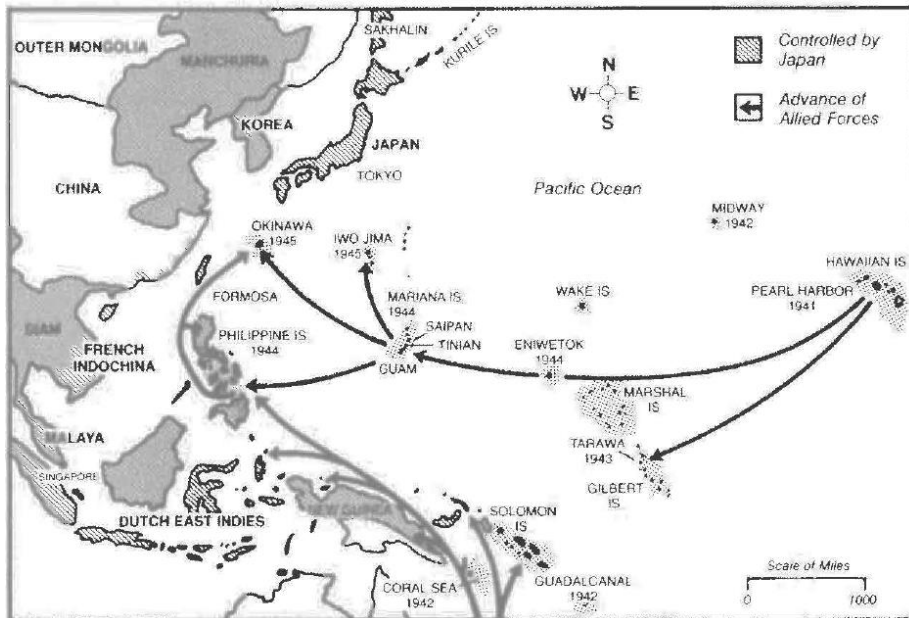
Bataan Death March, 1942

- In these same years, Americans remained at war with Japan. Geography played a critical role in the Pacific campaign during World War II. The U.S. and Japan were separated by the vast Pacific Ocean. After its attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese achieved quick victories in overrunning Malaya, Burma, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong, the Philippines, and the Western Pacific Islands. They soon threatened Australia, India, Midway, and Hawaii.
- The Philippines faced an invasion by the Japanese army on the day Pearl Harbor was attacked. A month later, U.S. and Filipino forces surrendered to the Japanese. The Japanese forced their prisoners to undertake a 60-mile march through the jungle, which became known as the **Bataan Death March**. These prisoners of war faced starvation, disease, exposure to the sun, and no water. About 5,000 of the Americans, almost half, died along the way. Some were bayoneted, shot, beheaded or just left to die along the side of the road.



War Turns Against Japan

- In 1943, the tide began to turn against Japan. The U.S. regained naval superiority in the Pacific and American forces by "**island-hopping**"-- liberating Pacific islands from Japanese control, one at a time.
- **Navajo Code Talkers:**
 - One group of Americans who played a key role in the Pacific campaign were the **Navajo code talkers**. The American military needed an undecipherable code to communicate that could not be broken by the Japanese. The Navajo language is unwritten and extremely complex. By using this language, American forces could transmit messages by telephone and radio in a code that the Japanese were unable to break.
- **Battle of Midway:**
 - The **Battle of Midway** was the turning point of the war in the Pacific. The Japanese were using their control of the Western Pacific to protect their home islands and vast new empire. The Japanese Pacific fleet commander had devised a plan to lure the U.S. Pacific fleet into a battle near Midway, a tiny mid-Pacific island, where he believed he could destroy them. However, the U.S. Navy could decipher Japanese secret codes and knew that a surprise attack by the Japanese fleet was at hand.



Battle of Midway

- Admiral **Chester Nimitz** was appointed Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet just after Pearl Harbor. He commanded U.S. forces at the **Battle of Midway**. During the Battle of Midway, the U.S. destroyed four of Japan's aircraft carriers, effectively ending Japan's superior strength in the Pacific Ocean. This battle halted the Japanese advance in the Pacific.
- The U.S. Army in the Pacific was commanded by General **Douglas MacArthur**. With additional American reinforcements arriving, Nimitz and MacArthur began a campaign in the Solomon Islands, which centered on taking Guadalcanal. The series of assaults on these Pacific islands drained Japanese resources. Next, the Americans retook the Philippines and Guam. By June 1945, American forces had captured Iwo Jima and Okinawa, islands close enough to be used as bases to launch attacks against the Japanese home islands. Like the earlier invasion of Europe on D-Day, the assault on Okinawa was a massive amphibious operation.
- Throughout the war, General **George C. Marshall** (1880-1959), acted as Chief of Staff and the "organizer of victory." He worked closely with President Roosevelt to urge military preparedness before Pearl Harbor, built up and supplied an army of 8 million men, and later helped to oversee the creation of the first atomic bomb.



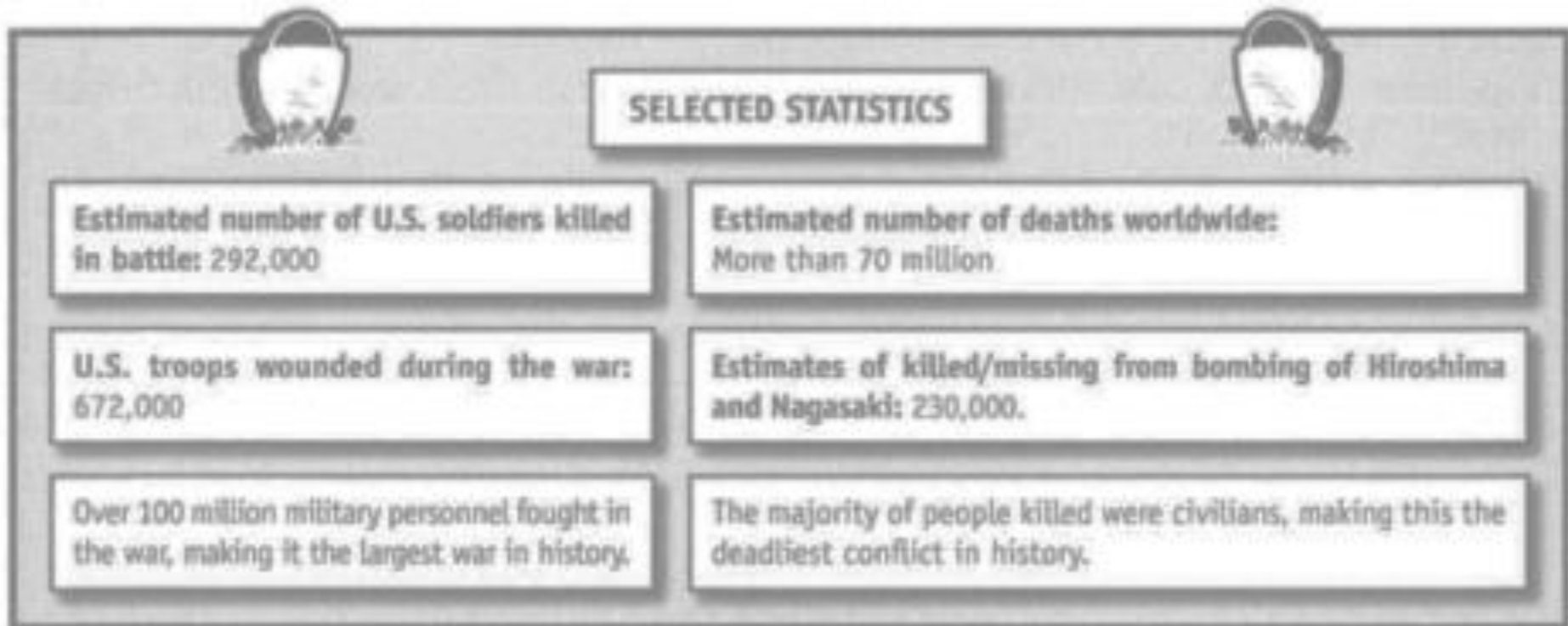
Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb

- In 1939, the famous scientist **Albert Einstein** sent a letter to President Roosevelt telling him it was possible that Germany might be developing an atomic bomb. In 1942, President Roosevelt sent a team of American scientists, several of them European refugees, to New Mexico, where they developed and exploded the world's first atomic bomb in July 1945. By then, Germany had been defeated, and America was preparing to invade Japan. President Roosevelt, re-elected a fourth time in 1944, died suddenly of a heart attack in April 1945 -just before Germany had surrendered.
- His successor, President **Harry Truman**, feared that an invasion of Japan might lead to a million American casualties. Truman preferred to use the **atomic bomb** against Japan rather than to sustain such high losses. He selected centers of Japanese military production as targets.
- On August 6, an atomic bomb was exploded over the Japanese city of **Hiroshima**. Three days later, a second bomb was exploded over **Nagasaki**. About 230,000 people were killed in both explosions combined. Critics argued that Truman could have exploded bombs on unoccupied islands in the Pacific as demonstrations, instead of on heavily populated cities. Japan surrendered shortly after the second explosion, once American leaders agreed to allow the Japanese Emperor to remain on his throne .



Legacy of World War II

- World War II was a global disaster of unprecedented dimensions. More than 70 million people lost their lives.
- **Denazification and the Division of Germany:**
 - After the war, Germany was divided into four zones by the U.S., Britain, France, and the U.S.S.R.. Each occupied one zone. The occupying powers introduced programs explaining the evils of Nazi beliefs to the German people. Hitler 's attempts to put his racist doctrines into practical effect also played a large role in discrediting racism, anti-Semitism, Social Darwinism, eugenics, and similar ideas worldwide. The Nazi nightmare showed where these ideas could lead. This contributed to the later Civil Rights Movement in the U.S..



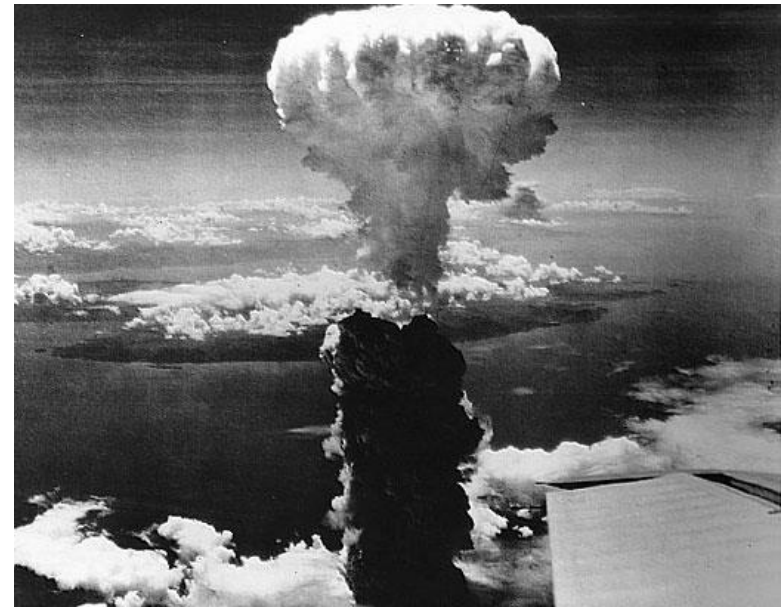
Legacy of World War II

- **Occupation of Japan:**

- General MacArthur, Supreme Commander of Allied forces in the Pacific, was assigned the task of rebuilding and reforming post-war Japan. Under his leadership, important changes were introduced to make Japan less aggressive. Japan's overseas empire was taken away, and her military leaders were put on trial and punished. Japan renounced the use of nuclear weapons and the waging of war. Japan was also forbidden from having a large army or navy. A new constitution went into effect in 1947, turning Japan into a democracy.

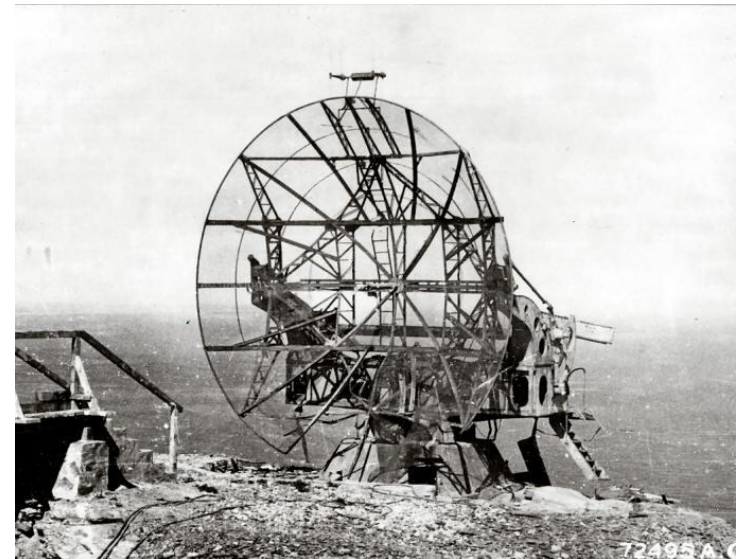
- **Technology in World War II:**

- Some historians attribute the Allied victory in the war to its many technological advances. The atomic bomb was not the only technological advance in World War II. The war saw the emergence of many other important technologies.



Technology in World War II

- Radar, an application developed during the war, uses electromagnetic waves to detect a moving object's range, altitude and direction. Sonar was improved to detect submarines. Cryptic code breaking allowed the Allies to find the meaning of secret encrypted information, and later contributed to the development of computers. Another major technological breakthrough was the invention of the proximity fuze- an explosive device that automatically explodes when it is close to its target. This greatly helped American forces fighting Japanese aircraft and ships in the Pacific.
- One of the most important developments of the war was the use of new antibiotics, such as penicillin, to treat soldiers' battle wounds. Discovered in 1928, penicillin was only mass-produced for the first time in 1944 to treat soldiers in the invasion of Normandy. Jet and rocket engines, similarly developed before the war, now saw their first real applications. The war was won in part by the ability of the Allies to create new technologies, all of which had lasting effects.



Nuremberg Trials, 1945 - 1946

- The liberation of concentration camps in Europe revealed millions of dead, along with half-starved survivors. With the full extent of Nazi brutality revealed, the Allies put surviving Nazi leaders on trial for "crimes against humanity" in Nuremberg, Germany. Those on trial defended themselves by claiming they had only been following orders. Many were found guilty of committing atrocities and were hanged or imprisoned. The **Nuremberg Trials** demonstrated that individuals are responsible for their actions, even in times of war .

