

UNIT 5, PART 3: WORLD WAR II, PART II
THE GLOBAL CONFLICT: ALLIED SUCCESSES

Occupied Lands - **Nazi Europe** - occupied lands were an economic resource to be exploited - Nazis stripped countries of their works of art, factories and other resources
- Slavs, other minorities worked as slave laborers in German war industries - Nazis took revenge on resistance fighters, shooting hostages and torturing prisoners

Nazi Genocide - by 1941, Nazis had devised plans for the "final solution" (genocide of all European Jews) - concentration or "death" camps were built in Poland and surrounding countries (at places like Auschwitz, Sobibor, Treblinka, Bergen Belsen, Dauchau) - Jews became slave laborers, some used in medical experiments, others were shot or killed in gas chambers

- by 1945, over 6 million Jews killed - massacre became known as the Holocaust
- almost 6 million other "undesirable" people were killed as well
- some Jews rebelled against the Nazis, but efforts were unsuccessful
- some non-Jews helped to hide Jews from the Nazis, while others were collaborators, helping the Nazis hunt down Jews
- Vichy France sent tens of thousands of Jews to concentration camps

The Co-Prosperity Sphere - Japan created the Great East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere - they used the slogan "Asia for Asians," claiming they would help Asians escape western colonial rule - Japan's goal: create an empire in Asia

- Japan tortured, killed Chinese and other conquered people, seized food crops, made local people into slave laborers

The Allied War Effort - The Big Three: FDR, Churchill, Stalin - in 1942, they agreed to finish the war in Europe before finishing the war in Asia with Japan

- June 6, 1944 - D-Day - opening of 2nd front in Western Europe - Stalin saw this delay as a deliberate policy (by Britain, U.S.) to weaken the Soviet Union

Total War - Britain, U.S. directed economic resources into the war effort - factories switched from consumer goods production to war production - govts. rationed consumer goods, regulated prices + wages - the war ended unemployment of the depression era

- democratic govts. censored the press, used propaganda to win public support, limited citizens' rights

- Japanese in U.S. + Canada were sent to internment camps when govt. decided they were a security risk

Women Help Win the War - millions of women replaced men in essential jobs - worked in war industries, staffed offices, served in armed forces in non-combat roles - European women fought in resistance groups against the Axis

Turning Points - El Alamein, Egypt - 1942 - British General Bernard Montgomery stopped Rommel's advance in Egypt - U.S. General Dwight Eisenhower led Anglo-U.S. force from the west (Morocco and Algeria) - Rommel's army trapped in Tunisia, surrendered in May 1943

Invasion of Italy - July 1943 - U.S. + British troops landing in Sicily + southern Italy, defeated Italian forces one month later - Mussolini went into hiding, new Italian govt. signed armistice, fighting in Italy between Germans + Allies continued for 18 months

- Allies took control of Italy - importance of invasion: Hitler forced to fight on another front

The Red Army Resists - Stalingrad - Germans surrounded the city, Russians then surrounded the Germans - harsh winter weather killed thousands - Germans surrendered in early 1943 - 300,000 Germans killed, wounded, or captured

Counterattack - Red Army took the offensive after Battle of Stalingrad, drove Germans into eastern Europe

Invasion of France - before the invasion, Allied bombers flew constant missions over Germany, destroying factories + aircraft that might be used against the invasion forces
- many German cities were destroyed

D-Day - June 6, 1944 - invasion of France - 176,000 Allied troops ferried across English Channel to the beaches of Normandy - faced heavy fire from German forces

- Allies broke through the German defenses, began advance toward Paris
- Allied forces sailed from Italy, invaded southern France
- August 1944 - Allies entered Paris - Sept. - France was liberated by the Allies

TOWARD VICTORY

War in the Pacific - May/June 1942 - major turning point - U.S. warships, airplanes severely damaged two Japanese fleets during battles of the Coral Sea and Midway Island
- these victories weakened Japanese naval power, stopped their advance
- U.S. now took the offensive: U.S. Marines, led by General Douglas MacArthur, landed at Guadalcanal in the Solomon Islands - this action was the beginning of the "island-hopping" campaign -> capture Japanese-held islands, use as stepping stones to next objective - U.S. built air bases on captured islands

- 1944 - U.S. Navy, commanded by Admiral Chester Nimitz, was blockading Japan, and American bombers were pounding Japanese cities and industries - Oct. 1944 - General MacArthur began to retake the Philippines

The Nazis Defeated - The Allied Advance - Battle of the Bulge - Belgium

Dec. 1944 - Hitler launched massive counterattack against the Allies

- both sides suffered terrible losses, and Hitler temporarily slowed the Allied advance
- this battle would be Hitler's last success

- Germany was under constant bombing - Allied bombers hit military bases, factories, RRs, oil depots, and cities
- industrial city of Hamburg almost destroyed - in Feb. 1945, up to 135,000 people were killed in the air raids on city of Dresden
- March 1945 - Allies crossed Rhine River into western Germany, Red Army closed in on Berlin from the east

The End in Europe - April 1945 - Italy - guerillas captured and executed Mussolini, Hitler committed suicide in his underground bunker

- May 7, 1945 - Germany surrendered - May 8 - V-E Day (Victory in Europe)

Defeat of Japan - Invasion vs. the Bomb - some American officials estimated that an invasion of Japan might cost a million or more casualties

- during the war, Allied scientists raced to build an atomic bomb (secretly known as the Manhattan Project) - July 1945 - 1st successful test at Alamogordo, New Mexico
- FDR died of a stroke on April 12, 1945 (18 days before Hitler's suicide)
- Vice Pres. Harry S Truman was sworn in as the new president
- at the Potsdam Conference in Germany (where Allied nations met to make plans for post-war Europe) Pres. Truman issued a warning to Japan: surrender or face "utter and complete destruction"

Hiroshima & Nagasaki - Aug. 6, 1945 - A-bomb dropped on Hiroshima - flattened 4 square miles, instantly killed 76,000 people

- Aug. 8, 1945 - USSR declared war on Japan, invaded Manchuria - Japan refused to surrender - 2nd bomb dropped on port city of Nagasaki on Aug. 9
- Sept. 2 - formal surrender signed in Tokyo Bay on the *U.S.S. Missouri*

Why Use the Bomb? - Pres. Truman believed the only other option was to invade Japan, which potentially cost enormous losses on both sides
- he many have hoped the bomb would impress the Soviets with American power