

AFTERMATH OF WAR - 75 million people killed in WWII - 38 million killed in Europe, many of them civilians - more than 22 million were killed in the Soviet Union

Horrors of the Holocaust - Allies were aware of the existence of Nazi concentration and death camps during the war, but didn't learn the full extent of the inhumanity and misery of the Holocaust until the war's end
- Rudolf Hoess - Nazi commander at Auschwitz - admitted during the Nuremberg Trials after the war that he had supervised the killing of some two and a half million people (not counting those who died of disease and starvation)

War Crimes Trials - trials held in Nuremberg, Germany - Germans and Austrians put on trial for "crimes against humanity" - 177 were tried, 142 found guilty - a handful of top Nazis received death sentences, others were imprisoned - similar war crimes trials were held in Italy and Japan

Allied Occupation - after the war, Allied troops occupied Germany and Japan

- western Allies built new governments with democratic constitutions to protect the rights of all citizens - in German schools, Nazi textbooks and courses were replaced with a new curriculum that taught democratic principles

THE UNITED NATIONS - April 1945 - delegates from 50 nations met in San Francisco to draft a charter for the United Nations (replaced the League of

Nations) - UN Charter: each member nation had one vote in the General Assembly - Security Council - smaller body given greater power - each of the 5

permanent members had right to veto any council decision: **U.S., USSR (today Russia), Britain, France, China**

- goal was to give these great powers the authority to ensure the peace
- besides peacekeeping, goals of the UN include preventing the outbreak of disease, improving education, protecting refugees, aiding nations to develop economically